



708080

ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

March 22, 1971

Dr. Wright H. Langham
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
P. O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dear Wright:

It was very pleasant hearing from a very old friend of the war years after the lapse of so many years. You indeed have a remarkable memory to recall events as far back as 1943.

In response to your inquiry, one of the first tasks assigned me (I think by G. E. Boyd) when I joined the Manhattan Project in April, 1942 was to review the literature on the effects on humans of radium and uranium poisoning. The extant information at that time was very meager indeed. Mostly it concerned the horrible experience of the workers who painted the dials of watches with radium-containing luminous paint. Of course you are familiar with the story of how they used the technique of pointing their brushes by licking them. The reviews were published as two laboratory reports:

MDDC 1054 (July 9, 1942) -- "Uranium Poisoning"

CH-167 (July 10, 1942) -- "Radium and Radon: Pathological Effects and Protection"

As I dimly recall, the reviews were requested because of the fears about uranium. The concerns with regard to plutonium came much later.

I hope this rather meager recollection will be helpful to you in writing your historical account. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me again if there is anything more I can possibly add.

Cordially yours,



Sol Nexler
Chemistry Division

SW:sjr

FILE BARCODE



00131349

9700 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, Illinois 60439 · Telephone 312-739-7711 · TWX 910-259-3285 · WUX LB, Argonne, Illinois

00131349.001

1044668

LANL