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Chief, Declassification Branch

MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON ACTIVITY HAZARDS

Mr. S. W. Pratt, Chairman
Central Safety Committee

To C.F.
6-11-46

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The Sub-Committee on Activity Hazards had a meeting in R. L. Doan's office on February 12, 1944, for the purpose of reviewing the general situation within the plant as regards the protection of personnel from hazardous radiation exposures and also to discuss any special problems needing consideration. All of the sub-committee members were present with the exception of Mr. Parker who was absent from the plant on account of illness. He was represented by Mr. Karl Morgan. Mr. Borst was present as a guest. Committee members in attendance included Messrs. Cantril, Sinclair, Vaughan, Greager, and Perlman.

Dr. Cantril stated that in his opinion the safety rules that have been adopted on activity hazards are being generally observed and that conditions in the 105 Building have greatly improved over the last several weeks. A number of problems still remain, however, and attempts are being made to devise ways and means of meeting them adequately.

It is the practice of the Health Division to send out reports to supervisors on all cases where both meters carried by personnel are observed to be discharged. The supervisors in turn are expected to report back to the Health Division on these cases, stating as nearly as they are able the nature of the work that the employee was doing on the day for which the discharges were observed and also giving an opinion as to whether or not the circumstances were such as to confirm the meter observation. Most supervisors have been replying promptly to the reports put out by the Health Division but there have been some cases where more immediate attention is desirable.

It would appear that maintenance men need more definite instructions than they are now receiving when they are sent to work in areas where activity may be encountered. It is apparent that they are not clearing in all cases with responsible supervisors before starting work in potentially hazardous areas. There is no problem where the assignment of maintenance men is to a particularly hazardous area because in these cases they fill out authorization slips and are told how long they can work at the designated places. The problem arises when the assignments are more general and no specific authorization slips are issued.

It was reported that the situation on the loading and checking of active samples sent out from the plant to other locations, chiefly Chicago, is much improved and that the packaging is also better than formerly.

A report written by Messrs. Sinclair and Vaughan on "Education of Operators in Restricted Areas with Regard to Activity Hazards" was reviewed

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and commented on favorably. This will presumably be discussed further in the Central Safety Committee.

A procedure written up by Borst and Parker for handling requests for Active Material from Building 105 was reviewed and discussed. It is expected that this procedure will be put into effect soon. It is now being discussed with Mr. Vaughan in an attempt to unify the procedures followed both in the 100 and 200 Areas when active samples are needed for experimental work.

A possible sub-major injury to Mr. Wilkening was reported based on observation of low blood count together with the known fact that Wilkening was making some measurements on active material during the days proceeding the observed low count. A part of his exposure could have been obtained in Building 105, but during this time he was wearing meters which showed no evidence of dosage over tolerance. The other part of his work was in Building 706-B where no meters were worn and it was assumed that his over-exposure was obtained there. It has now been arranged to issue meters to the personnel who work in 706-B as well as those in the 105 Building. The definition of a sub-major injury in the case of radiation exposure needs further consideration by the Central Safety Committee before actual tabulation on instances of this sort are put into the accident report.

A suggestion by Borst that blood counts be followed on all authenticated cases of over-exposure received favorable consideration.

The possibility that our product may itself constitute more of a hazard than was previously supposed came up for discussion. It was pointed out that little is actually known about this hazard, but it is not unlikely that it may exist and additional precautions along this line will have to receive some consideration.

R. L. Doan
Chairman

Copy to:

- L. B. Borst
- S. T. Cartril
- O. H. Greager
- I. Perlman
- J. P. Sinclair
- A. J. Schwertfeger
- R. B. Smith
- F. B. Vaughan

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