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MAY 26 1964

D. F. Cope, Director  
Reactor Division, ORO

Herman M. Roth, Director  
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WHOLE BODY COUNTING - EGCR EMPLOYEES

ORB:JAL

Reference is made to the TVA letter of May 21, 1964, supplying additional justification for whole body counting.

We have discussed the proposed body counting with ORINS and they are eager to count these EGCR personnel as one means of calibrating and checking their facility. The counting would therefore be mutually beneficial to ORINS and EGCR.

In view of the significantly lower cost and the fact that this is now a special case and not precedent setting, we feel that the baseline data to be developed are probably worth the cost. Accordingly, we recommend your approval of the present proposal.

Herman M. Roth

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APR 28 1964

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WHOLE BODY COUNTER FOR EOCR EMPLOYEES

ORB:JAL

Reference is made to your Memo Route Slip dated April 13, 1964, and the TVA letter dated April 9, 1964, both concerning a proposed pre-operational whole body counting program for EOCR employees.

This is to confirm information previously given your staff. The Y-12 whole body counter is not so "readily available" as the TVA letter would indicate. The Y-12 counter is not routinely used for whole body scans for the entire energy spectrum. It is used for uranium in lung studies. The charge for what EOCR wants would not be "nominal" but would probably run \$50 - \$100 per person due to the time required for calibration, conversions, etc. Also the Y-12 counter is presently busy two shifts a day and Y-12 does not appear eager to get involved in the EOCR counting. Therefore, if counting is to be done, it would be most appropriate at ORNL where costs would probably run around \$75 per person.

All biological data that one accumulates on atomic energy workers or any other groups for that matter, is helpful in predicting and evaluating future problems. There comes a point, however, when one should carefully evaluate the benefit in comparing with cost. We are not aware of any other AEC groups who have such an elaborate body counting program as proposed by TVA. ORNL, for instance, is trying to get their employees counted within the next few years.

We would not place whole body counting for all employees, with some potential for internal exposure, very high on our list of health physics requirements. The final decision whether TVA should have these pre-operational counts should probably await a more complete and realistic justification from TVA including tying the counting into their overall and continuing program for internal dose evaluation.

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