UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Sept. 20, 1954

Mr. Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer
Operations Coordinating Board
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Staats:

We ask the advice of the Operations Coordinating Board on making public the fact that preparations for a test series in the late winter are underway at the Nevada Proving Ground. The series has been approved by the President. It is necessary to advertise for bids for construction of facilities at the Proving Ground and to begin other work at the Proving Ground next week. The new activity and the advertising for bids will give rise to various rumor stories. Local public officials, stockmen and miners need to know about test series in advance so as to make arrangements for their affairs.

The operation will proceed more smoothly and the public reaction will be improved if we acknowledge in a brief announcement that a test series is being prepared for. The text of the announcement that we propose to make follows:

> The Atomic Energy Commission has advised public officials, stockmen, miners, and others in southwestern Utah and southern Nevada that it is ~~proceeding to re-activate~~ its Nevada Proving Ground for a series of nuclear tests commencing early in 1955, probably about mid-February. The series will conform generally with those previously conducted in Nevada, including participation and support by ~~other Federal agencies and departments such as~~ the Department of Defense, Federal Civil Defense Administration, ~~United States Public Health Service, and the United States Weather Service~~.

It is our understanding that this announcement should not be issued until after Secretary Dulles' address to the United Nations General Assembly on or about September 23. We propose that it be issued on Monday, September 27, in Washington and in Las Vegas by the Atomic Energy Commission.

May we have the comment of the Operations Coordinating Board at an early date.

Sincerely yours,

Paul F. Foster

Paul F. Foster
Special Assistant to the
General Manager

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