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Declassification Branch  
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October 15, 1948

REVIEW OF DOCUMENT

REFER TO  
SYMBOL:

We are returning herewith copy of document entitled "Health Physics: Instrumentation and Hazard Evaluation" by R. D. Evans, which you have transmitted to this office for our review and comments.

We have found this document very interesting and informative. In our opinion this document should prove valuable to technical personnel engaged in handling radio-active materials and we therefore approve of its being made available to them. From an insurance standpoint, we might have some qualms about some of the information contained therein being made public were it not for the fact that most of such material is already public information. For example, (on Page 33, paragraph 4, the International X-ray and Radiation Protection Commission is quoted as recommending that "The evidence at present available appears to suggest that under satisfactory working conditions a person in normal health can tolerate exposure to X-rays or radiation gamma rays to an extent of about 0.2r/day or 1r/week." (Emphasis supplied). It is apparent that the tolerance levels were arrived at with definite qualifications. With this bit of authoritative information a plaintiff's lawyer could make these standards appear to rest on very questionable foundations.)

It has been our experience that most claims of injury due to radio-activity have come from persons who were almost wholly uninformed with regard to effects which might be reasonably anticipated. It therefore appears that enlightenment of the workers regarding the possible hazards of their work and precautions necessary to prevent injury tends to lessen rather than increase the number of insurance claims.

Our thoughts could perhaps be summarized to state that we can see no objections from an insurance standpoint to making this document available to those people who might be able to use it for the protection of themselves and others in the course of their employment, but would question the advisability of giving it wide publication.

C.A.K.

Attachment:  
Document by Evans

Wilson:tm

REPOSITORY Oak Ridge Opri.  
Records Holding Area  
COLLECTION Doc. 1944-94  
1 of 1 H-240 Bldg. 2714-A  
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