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MEDICAL-DENTAL BLDG. SWIFT AND GOETHALS RICHLAND WASH. 99382 TELEPHONE AREA CODE 809. 942-1111

March 11, 1966

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U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Richland Operations Office
Richland, Washington

Attention: A. M. Waggoner, Assistant Manager
for Administration

Subject: PROPOSED PROMETHIUM AND PLUTONIUM STUDIES

Gentlemen:

As part of the Whole Body Counting - Metabolic Studies of Radioisotopes in Humans studies, Battelle Northwest personnel propose to perform ingestion, injection, and inhalation studies involving Promethium ¹⁴⁴ and Plutonium ²³⁷. This program will involve the use of paid volunteers, and possibly employees, who will receive controlled doses of Pm ¹⁴⁴ and Pu ²³⁷. Estimated doses will be in the range of 0.1 to 0.15 roentgens. Dr. Dave Bruner of the AEC Division of Biology and Medicine concurs in our belief that such studies may prove extremely useful.

Since these experiments will provide valuable data for use in possible treatment of radiation and contamination victims as well as basic research information, the Hanford Occupational Health Foundation is quite anxious to participate in the program.

Participation in such a program, however, raises several legal questions. Article XVI - Litigation and Claims, of Contract AT(45-1)-1837 provides for reimbursement to the Foundation of costs incurred in the settlement or defense of a claim if not otherwise covered by insurance. The Foundation liability insurance does not provide protection against a claim which might arise as a result of participation in the subject program.

Since this program is a part of an approved Commission program, would the Foundation be protected under the provisions of Article XVI, insofar as reimbursement of costs is concerned?

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The Foundation would be involved in the examination of the volunteers, administration of the radioisotopes, interpretation of results, and payment of the volunteers. It is felt that a document executed by the volunteers, possibly an authorization or consent form, would be desirable and appropriate. Guidance as to content and format of such a document from the Commission Legal offices is requested.

A third problem involves licensing. It is our understanding that AEC approved programs involving the use of radioisotopes which are conducted in Commission owned facilities do not require a license. It is possible that some of the work will be performed in Kadlec Hospital. If so, would this require a license? Would a license be required for work in our Richland headquarters in the Kadlec Medical Dental Building?

Your reply to the above questions and request at the earliest convenient time will be appreciated. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

W. D. Norwood, M.D.

W. D. Norwood, M.D.
Medical Director

WDN:jg