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WATERTOWN ARSENAL
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02172

IN REPLY REFER TO
AMXWA-AH

24 May 1965

SUBJECT: Overexposure of Mr. G. Farr's Film Badge, 14 March
Through 10 April 1965

TO: Commanding General
U. S. Army Materiel Command
ATTN: AMCAD-SE
Washington, D. C. 20315

ARM2.950159.009

1. Reference is made to letter AMCAD-SE, Headquarters, U. S. Army Materiel Command, 11 May 1965, subject as above.
2. The information requested in paragraph 2. a. and b. is attached herewith.
3. Following receipt of notification of overexposure to film badge assigned to Mr. Farr, this office conducted a thorough investigation of the possible causes. This investigation clearly established the following facts:
 - a. Mr. Farr was on prolonged leave status since 29 July 1964 and was retired on 22 April 1965. Copy of his official attendance record is attached.
 - b. Even though Mr. Farr was on sick leave status, he was still assigned a film badge inasmuch as it was expected that he would return to work. During this period his film badge was under the direct control of the uranium area supervisor who kept it segregated from badges that were in use.
 - c. Mr. Farr was assigned to duty in Bldg. 34, a special project security building. The only radiation work in this building involved depleted uranium. In his capacity as a supervisor, Mr. Farr's duties only required his periodic entrance into the specific area handling depleted uranium. His total exposure from 7 June 1959 to 13 March 1965 was .302 rem which is considered within the error limits of film badge dosimetry.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE "COMMANDING OFFICER".

Washington National Record Center
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d. Attached Telecon with Lexington Blue-Grass Army Depot, paragraph 5 indicates radiation was similar to that produced by Co^{60} or possible X-ray. As a further analysis if it were assumed that the badge was exposed continuously to depleted uranium 24 hours a day for the entire film badge period, it is estimated that the maximum gamma exposure to the badge would be less than one rem. This would further assume that the beta component from the Th^{234} had been totally shielded inasmuch as no beta exposure was reported.

3. In view of the facts established by the investigation regarding control of the badge and analysis of the maximum possible exposure there is no evidence to indicate that this badge received the reported exposure at this installation. The only other possibility is that this badge was mislent to another activity and it is therefore possible that some other individual received the overexposure.

4. During the course of this investigation, the opportunity was taken to re-emphasize to all supervisors and operating personnel the value and need of firm controls on the handling of film badges.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



SIDNEY LEVIN
Health Physicist

3 Incl

1. Telecon-Lexington Army Depot
2. Telecon-New York Compliance Office of AEC
3. Mr. Farr's Attendance Record

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