

107388

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 258

2:30 p.m., Thursday, April 14, 1949

Present

David E. Lilienthal
Sumner T. Pike
Lewis L. Strauss
Robert F. Bacher

Walter J. Williams
Adrian S. Fisher

Roy B. Snapp
Philip J. Farley

Also Present

Fletcher C. Waller
Frances A. Henderson
Morse Salisbury
Ralph P. Johnson
Spofford G. English
Bennett Boskey
Brig. Gen. James McCormack, Jr.
Col. Richard T. Coiner
Col. James P. Cooney, Jr.
Kenneth C. Pitzer

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<i>2/23/55</i>

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BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC
Carl Wilson 2/7/81
REVIEWED BY *J. Diaz* DATE *5/24/88*

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6. AEC 28/15 - Radiological Warfare Program

Under consideration was a report (AEC 28/15) on the above subject by the Director of Military Application concerning the January 10, 1949, report of the Radiological Warfare Panel. General McCormack said that the crucial question now facing the radiological warfare program of the Commission and the National Military Establishment concerns selection of a field testing facility and definition of the sort of tests which will be conducted. Colonel Cooney said that the Military Establishment favors a site at Dugway-Wendover for field tests. He pointed out that the region was occasionally visited by dust storms, that the drainage during heavy rainfall was toward Great Salt Lake, and that there was a considerable amount of desert wild life in the area. He expressed the opinion that it was important that field tests be held as recommended by the Radiological Warfare Panel and that they should be on a sufficient scale so that the results would be significant. Precautions would be necessary, however, in the selection of test facilities and in the conduct of tests. He recommended that an ad hoc committee of competent technical personnel be established to pass on the site and the program for testing.

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Mr. Bacher recalled that the present Commission program in this field consisted in the main of participation in work directed toward a decision on the importance of radioactive materials as a military weapon. He inquired how the measures referred to in AEC 28/15 and in the previous discussion at this meeting fitted into the time-scale of the decision as to the military importance of radiological warfare. Colonel

Cooney said that this decision would follow field tests and subsequent studies of production capacity, and appeared to be at least a year off. Mr. Lilienthal recalled that the General Advisory Committee had commented at a recent meeting on the need for early field tests. Colonel Cooney said that the test program now being developed should satisfy the General Advisory Committee. After further discussion, and revision of proposed letters to Dr. Noyes and to the Chairman of the Military Liaison Committee, the Commission:

a. APPROVED, as revised at the meeting, a letter from the Chairman, AEC, to Dr. W.A. Noyes (Appendix "D" to AEC 28/15);

b. APPROVED, as revised at the meeting, a letter from the Chairman, AEC, to the Chairman, MLC (Appendix "E" to AEC 28/15);

c. NOTED the satisfactory progress of the radiological warfare program as described in AEC 28/15; and

d. NOTED that appropriate reference to the progress of the radiological warfare program will be included in the next quarterly progress report to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

At this point Messrs. Pike, English, and Colonel Cooney left the meeting.

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Roy B. Snapp

Roy B. Snapp
Secretary

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Approved by the Commission: May 11, 1949