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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Those Listed Below

DATE: June 27, 1962

FROM : Gordon M. Dunning, Deputy Director
Division of Operational Safety

SUBJECT: IODINE-131 LEVELS IN MILK

OS:DIR:GMD

On June 26, 1962 the Public Health Service reported informally to us that they had found 1240 micromicrocuries of iodine-131 per liter of milk at Spokane, Washington. The tables below summarize the recent data for Spokane and other relevant places.

The following summarize the points in regard to the high level at Spokane, Washington.

1. PHS has agreed to recheck the high number and if they have saved the sample they will send part of it to our Health and Safety Laboratory for cross checking. (You will recall that in a similar instance for rain water PHS agreed to a similar arrangement, but apparently it is necessary to clarify this point for the various types of collections since there are different PHS personnel involved.)

2. We have checked Hanford and Idaho Operations Offices and find nothing unusual at either locality in regard to release of iodine-131.

3. The Weather Bureau has run preliminary trajectories which indicate the possibility that the debris from Des Moines shot on June 13, 1962 at NTS could have been carried into the Washington State area.

Addressees:

D. A. Ink, AGM
E. J. Bloch, AGMO
N. H. Woodruff, Director, OS
Forrest Western, Director, ORS
D. C. Clark, Director, PI
Brig. Gen. A. W. Betts, Director, MA

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DOE/OFFICE OF DECLASSIFICATION
R. A. CARPENTER, A.D.D. DATE:

R.A. Carpenter 11-28-74

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4. We have requested PHS to compile the data on milk for all of their stations in the West to better determine how widespread is the iodine in the milk. Also, PHS has agreed to look at the data decay on their air filters to give another crude estimate at time of origin of the fallout.

5. It is still too early to come to a conclusion but the preliminary evidence strongly suggests that the high levels of iodine-131 in milk came from Des Moines shot at NTS. If this eventually proves to be true, we have some serious problems. As you recall, Dr. Edward Martell testified at the recent Congressional Hearings that the high iodine levels in the country were due principally to the Nevada tests. This hypothesis probably will be proven incorrect as soon as a study is completed. However, if the Des Moines event did cause these levels it will only add substance to Dr. Martell's hypothesis for other tests at NTS. You will also recall that the Des Moines event released substantially greater amounts of radioactivity than the other underground events at NTS. Also, since it was detonated underground, the activity was not carried to relatively great heights and thus was not widely dispersed as it would be for a detonation in the open. Among other things, this should put us on warning to watch carefully any future planned shots of this type.

Recent Iodine-131 Levels in Milk (micromicrocuries per liter)

Spokane, Washington

June 11 < 10
June 21 1240

Seattle, Washington

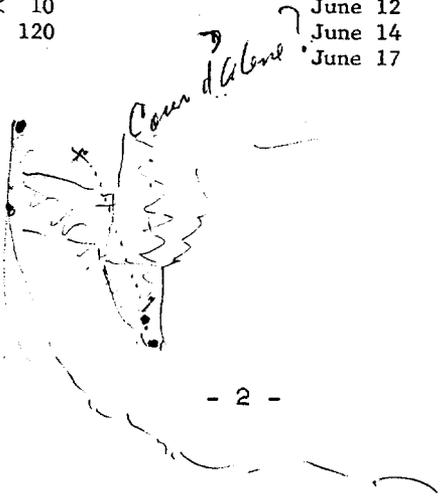
June 16 10
June 20 440

Portland, Oregon

June 12 < 10
June 19 120

Idaho Falls, Idaho

June 12 < 10
June 14 30
June 17 < 10



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Total Estimated Intake Iodine-131 From Milk
Since September 1961 to June 19, 1962
(Micromicrocuries)

Minneapolis, Minnesota	31,020
Des Moines, Iowa	30,230
Kansas City, Kansas	28,880
Other stations	< 24,000