

K. D. Nichols
General Manager

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Special Assistant to the General Manager

LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF INCREASING RADIATION LEVELS

SYMBOL: GMSAC:ERT

Recent public discussion of the very long-term effects of increasing environmental radiation levels may lead to intense congressional interest. Secondly, the absence of adequate authoritative public information on the subject may result in a hazard permitting very undesirable reactions. Thirdly, perhaps remote, such an increase in levels may influence tolerance levels.

I don't believe we can rebut specific articles as they appear in the public media. We should, however, be considering the situation over the next six, twelve, or eighteen months. Several courses are possible: extensive treatment in a major section of the future semiannual report; special emphasis in the revised Weapons Effects book; conference, including the geneticists, with published proceedings; hearings before the Joint Committee.

Other government agencies will be concerned in addition to AEC, military services, the Public Health Service, the Weather Bureau, having a particular interest, and the State Department a major policy interest. Before any of the others begin churning on the subject, I suggest a caucus of those concerned in AEC to evaluate the problem and lay out some kind of plan to meet what may be a pressing requirement in the future. I suggest B&M take the initiative to get the problem looked at. My concern may be groundless but I think the subject has a very ominous potential.

CC: Mr. A. Tammaro
~~Dr. J. G. Rughar~~
Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields
Mr. Morse Salisbury
Dr. T. H. Johnson
Dr. Chas. D. Luke

*John - you may have
better ideas.
Merrill Eisenbud
has done some
thinking on this,
so look into it.*

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