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June 12, 1975

Memo to files

INFORMAL PROPOSAL BY K. L. SWINTH

On March 14, 1975, Ken Swinth of Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory forwarded a request for comments about a proposed project. The request was addressed to me in a letter. The project he had in mind was to conduct an epidemiologic study that would provide information concerning the effects of sulfates as a factor in air pollution.

The approach he had in mind was to identify a population of former medical patients who had had barium sulfate instilled into their bronchi for bronchography during diagnostic x-ray study. He would then study the incidence of lung tumors in such individuals. The proposal was discussed with Dr. Weyzen and others, who corroborated my view that this is a poor way of getting at the toxicity of sulfate aerosols. Barium sulfate is an insoluble, poorly dissociable compound and cannot reasonably be expected to have effects similar to those of the sulfate aerosols. Irrespective of the findings of such a study, it would be almost impossible to apply this information to the health effects of air pollution.

I telephoned Ken Swinth recently to inform him of our misgivings about the proposal. He acknowledged the difficulties in the proposed study and accepted our discouraging response gracefully. He indicated that he would not submit a IR9 for the proposed study.

REPOSITORY Yermaatoun RC

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FOLDER MED. HEALTH & SAFETY - 21

bcc: AAP rdg file

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