

RG 326

Collection 1135- *Gen Managers files*

C. L. Dunham

Box 51673

August 12, 1957

A. Tammaro

Folder 7

STUDY OF NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON FALLOUT

The Commission has approved AEC 604/32, a proposed letter to Congressman Durham in response to his request to you during the recent hearings on fallout for recommendations on a step-up in research related to fallout. This letter advises that the needs of the program are being studied and that requirements for operating funds and capital facilities will be reflected in the FY 1959 budget request. It also leaves the door open for reprogramming in FY 1958. The purpose of this memorandum is to request that you resume your study in accordance with the letter, keeping in mind some of the points we have discussed and mentioned below.

A logical first step is the submission to the Commission of an information paper summarizing the hearings and identifying the important unknowns highlighted by the testimony. I understand that such a paper is nearing completion.

Secondly, we should commence now to review the five-year plan which you transmitted with your memorandum of June 28, 1957, from the standpoint of having to present and defend it through the budget process.

Your several public statements on the subject, including your recent testimony before the JCAE, make it clear that the AEC recognizes its major responsibility to the Congress, the public and the scientific community to advance our understanding of fallout and radiation effects as rapidly as possible. The Commission has described the Sunshine program as one of high priority. I feel that in view of the importance of the subject matter and the almost universal interest in it, we are obliged to obtain a wide range of competent scientific advice outside the AEC. I assume, of course, that the ACM will assist in this respect and will keep in close touch with the program as it progresses. You may wish in addition to appoint highly specialized panels in the various disciplines. It might also be useful to consult those competent scientific witnesses who testified in the fallout hearings, and whose judgment we respect, including also those who may have been critical of our program to date. The chances are that there will be some criticism of whatever we do. However, we should not permit ourselves to be vulnerable to the criticism that

~~we failed to take advantage of the best available advice in planning and developing the program.~~

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I know that you would have preferred to have gone forward to the Bureau of the Budget with a request to authorize the initiation of a step-up in FY 1958. As you know, circumstances made that impracticable. Considering those circumstances, the approach taken in AEC 604/32 has the merit of being a straightforward approach and is generally consistent with current fiscal policy.

I am returning the material previously provided on this subject and also a copy of the Chairman's memorandum to the General Manager of July 10 for your information and guidance.

- cc: K. E. Fields
- R. W. Cook
- R. E. Hollingsworth
- D. S. Burrows
- E. Diamond

- Encls.: Memo to AT fr HCB, dtd 7-27-57
- Memo to GM thru AT fr CLD, dtd 6-28-57,
- re INCREASE IN B&M RESEARCH PROGRAM RE-
- LATED TO FALLOUT
- Draft ltr to Durham, JCAE
- Abstracts fr Transcript
- Cy memo to GM fr LLS, dtd 7-10-57, re
- THE RECENT FALLOUT HEARINGS AND RE-
- SULTING COMMISSION ACTION

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