

REPOSITORY NARA/College Park
COLLECTION AEC Minutes (92-006) (NN3-326-)
BOX No. 3
FOLDER Vol 6 (1 of 2)

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 456

2:00 p.m., Thursday, August 17, 1950

Present

Sumner T. Pike
Thomas E. Murray

Carleton Shugg
Bennett Boskey

Phillip J. Farley
Harold D. Anamosa

Also Present

Lt. Gen. E. R. Quesada
Brig. Gen. James McCormack, Jr.
Dr. A. C. Graves
Brig. Gen. J. K. Gerhart
Col. Richard T. Colner, Jr.
Col. George F. Schlatter
Dr. Charles L. Dunham
J. A. Waters, Jr.
Francis R. Hammack
Col. P. T. Preuss
Morse Salisbury
Lt. Col. Ellis Wilhoyt
Charles L. Marshall
Paul W. McDaniel

1. Joint Task Force Three Report on Operation GREENHOUSE

General Quesada presented copies of the draft report of Joint Task Force Three on Operation GREENHOUSE. After the Commission had read the draft report, General Quesada commented on considerations which had arisen during preparation of the report.

General McCormack proposed that the Commission in order to reiterate its views as to the urgency of a weapons test at the scheduled time, address a letter to General Quesada which could be included in the report of Joint Task Force Three, and at the same time transmitted to the Military Liaison Committee. He reviewed with the Commission the points which would be advanced in such a letter.

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Mr. Shugg pointed out that, even though policy considerations might make a reference to the advantage of a standby continental test site unwise in connection with the report of Joint Task Force Three, surveys for suitable sites should be pressed so that an alternate location for the necessary tests in the spring of 1951 would be available in case later international developments should interfere with conduct of Operation GREENHOUSE at the Eniwetok site.

After further discussion, the Commission:

- a. NOTED the draft report of Joint Task Force Three on Operation GREENHOUSE; and
- b. REQUESTED the Director of Military Application to revise the draft letter to General Quesada in the light of discussion at the meeting.

At this point, Messrs. Quesada, Gerhart, Dunham, Preuss, Graves and Schlatter left the meeting, and Colonel Wilhoyt entered.

2. AEC 2/21, 2/22 and 2/24 - Custody of Weapons Components

The Commission discussed points raised in the most recent letter on the above subject from the Director of Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory (AEC 2/24). After further discussion, the Commission:

DEFERRED action on AEC 2/21 and AEC 2/22.

At this point, Messrs. McCormack and Wilhoyt left the meeting, and Messrs. Marshall and McDaniel entered.

3. AEC 333 and 333/3 - Relations with the Department of Defense Regarding Restricted Data

The Commission discussed problems relating to the responsibility for safeguarding restricted data documents turned over to the Department of Defense or its contractors (Paragraph 29(c) of AEC 333). Mr. Boskey said that it was the considered view of the Office of the General Counsel that turning over to the Department of Defense such full responsibility was within the authority of the Commission, should the Commission find such an action assured the common defense and security. Mr. Hammack urged that, should this responsibility be lodged with the Department of Defense, the Commission should continue to obtain copies of periodic inventories of top

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secret documents maintained by the Department of Defense, as well as notice of any loss or compromise of restricted data.

Mr. Boskey said that the Military Liaison Committee was still considering the draft amendment to the Atomic Energy Act transmitted to them at the Commission's request (AEC 333/2). Discussion of the draft joint letter from the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Commission (AEC 333/3) was deferred. After further discussion, the Commission:

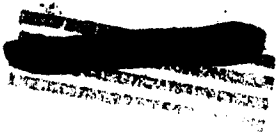
REQUESTED that a draft letter be prepared proposing that the Department of Defense be charged with full responsibility for safeguarding restricted data documents turned over to it and its contractors.

4. Revision of the Atomic Energy Act

Mr. Boskey said that he had been advised that at the meeting of the Joint Committee on the previous day there had been some discussion of the draft legislation now under consideration by the Committee relating to the term of the General Manager's appointment and the salaries of the Commissioners and General Manager. No final action was taken by the Committee. Consideration had been given to further amendment of the Act, to provide that the General Manager should be appointed by the Commission rather than the President and that the General Manager's salary should not be specified in the Act. Messrs. Pike and Murray commented on the rigidity of the specific organization provisions of the Atomic Energy Act relating to the titles and salaries of Division Directors, asked that the desirability of revision of these provisions, with the exception of those relating to the Director of Military Application, be brought informally to the attention of the Joint Committee.

5. AEC 20/7 - Uranium Procurement Policy

The Commission requested that the Acting Secretary record in the minutes of the present meeting the Commission's action on the above subject, taken in reviewing an address to be made on August 30, 1950 by the Manager, Raw Materials Operations, at a meeting of the American Mining Congress. Commissioners Pike, Smyth and Murray had reviewed the address before its issuance as a staff paper (AEC 20/7) and had:

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- a. APPROVED delivery of the address; and
- b. APPROVED the modifications of existing policies set forth in Paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b) of AEC 20/7.

Philip J. Farley
Acting Secretary

Approved by the Commission: September 14, 1950.