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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 977

10:30 a.m., Friday, April 16, 1954

Present

Lewis L. Strauss
Eugene M. Zuckert
Joseph Campbell

K. D. Nichols
Harold L. Price

Roy B. Snapp
John H. Stumpf

Also Present

Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields
Dr. John C. Bugher
Comdr. James M. Dunford
Dr. I. I. Rabi
Dr. W. F. Libby

1. Recommended Revisions in Test Operation

The Chairman thanked Dr. Libby and Dr. Rabi for affording the Commission this opportunity of discussing questions which had arisen concerning the conduct of the current test operation.

The General Manager initiated the discussion by briefly summarizing Dr. Libby's letter (AEC 597/44) in which he had raised several questions concerning the factors affecting fall-out from test detonations. Specifically, Dr. Libby had suggested that in view of the possibility that fall-out is more widely distributed when the detonation occurs in deep water rather than on dry land or in shallow water, the remainder of the shots in the present operation should be relocated.

With reference to a map, Dr. Bugher illustrated the distribution of fall-out from the first shot of the present series and commented upon the factors which may have been contributed to this distribution. General Fields

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW DATE: <u>8-14-95</u>	DETERMINATION: (CIRCLE NUMBER(9))
AUTHORITY: <input type="checkbox"/> AC <input type="checkbox"/> AD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADD	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: <u>D. LITTLE</u>	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO: _____
2ND REVIEW DATE: <u>8-16-95</u>	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: ADD	4. COORDINATE WITH: _____
NAME: <u>W. CHROBAK</u>	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	OTHER (SPECIFY): <u>PAGES 131-133</u>

described the problems which would be involved in relocating the remaining shots and said that because elaborate instrumentation is already in place it would be extremely difficult if not altogether impossible to do so without a serious loss of time. The General Manager commented on the disadvantages which an extension of the test operation might entail.

Dr. Libby then outlined his reasons for believing that deep water detonation might result in an undesirable distribution of fall-out beyond the Pacific area. Drs. Bugher and Rabi commented on factors which might have an opposite effect from that envisaged by Dr. Libby. In the course of an extensive discussion on these matters Dr. Rabi indicated that he did not believe that the information presently available was sufficient to justify the relocation of the remaining shots. Dr. Libby indicated that he continued to be of the opinion that deep water detonation should be avoided if possible. There was general agreement that it is most important that additional knowledge of fall-out phenomena be obtained.

After further discussion, the Commission:

Agreed that available information concerning fall-out phenomena is insufficient to justify altering plans for the conduct of the remainder of the test series.

The Chairman pointed out, however, that the Commission continues to be very much concerned about the fall-out situation and that intensive studies in this area will be continued.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Mr. Campbell inquired concerning the status of oceanographic and other studies which have been conducted in connection with the test activities at the Pacific Proving Grounds.

The Commission:

Requested a report on studies which have been conducted concerning the locale of the Pacific test areas.

The Commissioners also discussed with Dr. Rabi the desirability of a bad weather shot and requested the AEC staff to report on the GAC position on this subject.

At this point Drs. Libby and Bugher left the meeting.

2. Special Recognition for LASL Personnel

Dr. Rabi said that in view of the remarkable recent achievements of the Los Alamos Laboratory, he believed that it would be appropriate for the Government to extend special recognition to them, perhaps in the form of a general bonus.

After discussion, the Commission:

Requested the General Manager to explore and make recommendations to the Commission concerning the feasibility of extending special recognition to the personnel of LASL.

Roy B. Snapp
Roy B. Snapp
Secretary

Approved by the Commission: May 19, 1954

*From Meeting
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