

4-10-51

Background Information
on
National Committee on Radiation Protection and Measurement
Prepared by the Public Health Service
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

R

March 1951

The National Committee on Radiation Protection and Measurement was established in the United States in 1929. Its roots go back to the formation of the International Commission on Radiological Protection which developed from the Second International Congress of Radiology that met in Stockholm in July 1928.

Early in 1929 an Advisory Committee on X-Ray and Radium Protection was established with Dr. Lauriston C. Taylor as chairman and with the American Roentgen Ray Society, the Radiological Society of North America, the American Medical Association, the X-Ray Equipment Manufacturers, the National Bureau of Standards, and the International Commission on Radiation Protection as participants.

As its first objective the committee undertook the preparation of recommendations on X-ray protection. These were published in 1933 as National Bureau of Standards Handbook No. 15 in 1934, Handbook No. 16, dealing with radium protection, was issued. Subsequent developments made in the X-ray field led to revised recommendations which were issued in July 1936 as Handbook No. 20.

In this handbook, there appeared for the first time recommendations for specific permissible exposure levels that could be allowed for occupational exposure.

REF ID: A61173

The revision of Handbook 18 on radium protection was first undertaken and Handbook No. 23 was issued in August, 1930. These two handbooks--H 20 and H 23--were accepted in this country as the primary guides for protection against X-rays and radiation from radium. They were also as the primary guides for the Manhattan project.

During 1946 a number of meetings were held to consider the expanded problems posed by the development of the atom bomb and the consequent expansion in the radiation field as well as other new scientific data on radiation and its effects. In December of that year, it was agreed that the Committee should be substantially enlarged and the National Bureau of Standards continuing as the central coordinating agency.

As presently organized the Committee consists of a main committee, numbering 41 members, with 18 subcommittees dealing with various aspects of radiation.

Following is a list of the members of the Executive Committee:

