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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 1216

11:00 a.m., Friday, July 13, 1956

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REPOSITORY NARA/College Park  
COLLECTION AEC Minutes (NNP-326-92-006)  
BOX No. 9  
FOLDER Vol 18 (1 of 3)

Present

Lewis L. Strauss  
W. F. Libby  
Harold S. Vance

K. E. Fields  
Edward Diamond

W. B. McCool  
Richard V. Willit

Also Present

Manuel Dupkin II  
Richard J. Hallinan

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426-431

1. Consideration of Agenda for Week of July 16

The Commission reviewed with the General Manager the following matters suggested for consideration during the week of July 16, 1956.

a. AEC 924 - Disclosure of Privileged Information

Mr. Libby said he thought AEC 924 - "Disclosure of Privileged Information" did not require Commission discussion. Mr. Fields said that while the paper was primarily a report on actions taken in response to Commission request, he now wished Commission guidance as to whether the investigation of one matter should be taken outside the AEC. Mr. Strauss said he had not yet had an opportunity to review the paper and would like to do so before it was placed on the Agenda.



b. AEC 887/4 - Policy on Weapons

Mr. Strauss suggested that, in view of the Commission briefing by General Loper on July 12, clarifying the DOD interpretation of the proposed policy on use of weapons the Commission was now in a position to approve the recommendation contained in AEC 887/4. However, he requested that a revised letter to the DOD be submitted for Commission review prior to dispatch.

After discussion, the Commission:

a. Approved, in principle, a policy on the use of weapons similar to that set forth in AEC 887/3; and

b. Noted that a revised letter to the DOD commenting on this policy would be submitted to the Commission before dispatch.

c. Oral Report by Director, Division of International Affairs

Mr. Fields said that a report on Mr. Hall's South American trip had been scheduled for Wednesday, July 18. He added that he would shortly submit staff papers concerning terms for foreign allocation of materials and declassification of the price of this material. The Commissioners then discussed these questions and the necessity for considering as soon as possible the General Manager's recommendations on these matters.

d. Consideration of the Twentieth Semiannual Report

The Commissioners briefly discussed the Twentieth Semiannual Report. Mr. Strauss referred to Mr. Murray's comments on the report\* and said that footnotes would be

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\*A copy of Mr. Murray's memorandum dated July 10, is on file in the Office of the Secretary.

[REDACTED]

added to the sections on Reactor Development, Civilian Power Reactor Program, and Radioactive Strontium Fallout, stating that Mr. Murray does not subscribe to these sections of the Report.

After further discussion, the Commission:

a. Approved, as revised, the galley proofs of the Twentieth Semiannual Report to Congress; and

b. Authorized the printing and submission to Congress of the Twentieth Semiannual Report subject to a.

e. Private Use of AEC Facilities

Mr. Fields referred to a request by the Allied Chemical and Dye Company that it be permitted to use Oak Ridge facilities in connection with plans to participate in the feed materials processing program. He pointed out that the Commission had previously agreed that all such requests for use of AEC facilities by private firms should be submitted to the Commission for review. (See minutes of Meetings 1073 and 1143.) A staff paper, proposed for consideration during the week of July 16, recommended approval of the Allied Chemical and Dye Company's request. The paper also recommended that the Manager of the Oak Ridge Operations Office be delegated authority to approve any additional requests for use of Oak Ridge facilities by participants in the feed materials processing program.

The Commission discussed these recommendations and the general question of Commission authorization for use of all AEC facilities by private firms. The Commission:

a. Agreed that it would no longer be necessary for the Commission to review all proposals for

the private use of AEC-owned facilities and equipment prior to approval of such proposals by the General Manager.

b. Requested that a recommendation be submitted to the Commission to ratify the General Manager's delegation of authority to approve, finally, certain proposals for the private use of AEC-owned facilities and equipment; and

c. Requested that a recommendation be submitted to the Commission establishing a dollar limitation above which the General Manager would not be authorized to approve proposals for private use of AEC-owned facilities and equipment.

2. Commission Meeting During Operation ALERT

Mr. Strauss and Mr. Libby indicated that they would be present if a Commission meeting is held at the Emergency Relocation Center on Tuesday, July 24.

3. Status Report for the NSC

Mr. Strauss said that the NSC had requested a Status Report from the AEC by July 15, but he pointed out that this would not allow sufficient time for adequate preparation of the report. Therefore, he had requested that the Report be completed by July 17. He added that Mr. Murray had indicated great interest in the Report and had also requested that the July 15, submission date be extended.

Mr. Libby observed that the Report made no reference to the peaceful uses of atomic energy and commented that a section on this phase of the atomic energy program should be included.

4. Request by Mr. Ramey for a Report on the AEC Program

Mr. Strauss remarked that a request had been received from Mr. Ramey of the JCAE for a two-page statement outlining the accomplishments of AEC during the past ten years.

5. Possible Conflicts of Interest

Mr. Strauss referred to discussions during the closed hearings of the JCAE on June 26 and 27, and said that, at these hearings, he had been asked whether Mr. Walker Cisler was involved in a possible conflict of interests in his capacity as an advisor to ICA and as an official of the Power Development Reactor Company. Mr. Strauss remarked that he did not believe that any conflict of interests existed in this situation. However, he requested that it be determined whether Mr. Cisler is an AEC consultant at the present time. In addition, he requested a report on whether any individuals having business affiliations with the AEC are also serving as AEC consultants without compensation. Mr. Strauss indicated concern that AEC's present consultant policy has caused some prospective consultants to feel that they must either sever their business affiliations or refuse to become an AEC consultant. Such a policy, he said, has deprived AEC of the services of many competent persons.

6. Providing Secretary's Notes on Informal Meeting to the GAC

Mr. McCool inquired whether the Commissioners had any objection to providing the GAC ten copies of his Notes on the Commission's May 23, 1956, informal meeting with Messrs. Tuck, Teller and Spitzer concerning the classification of Project SHERWOOD. The Commissioners indicated that they had no objection to this.

7. Report on Tewa Shot at Operation REDWING

General Starbird reported that, in response to the Commission's request at Meeting 1215, he and Doctor York had been in touch with the Commander of the Joint Task Force regarding the depth of water over which the Tewa shot should be detonated and also whether Tewa could be made the last shot of Operation REDWING. General Starbird said he had just received a cable from the Task Force which stated that setting up the shot for detonation over water sixty to sixty-five feet deep would result in only a one or two day delay of the shot, now scheduled for July 17. The cable reported a statement by Dr. Shelton that there is no conclusive evidence that less fall-out would occur if the shot were set off in shallow water, nor is there conclusive evidence that fall-out would increase at distances beyond one thousand miles from the point of detonation. It stated that since there would be a short delay in firing Huron it would not be desirable to fire Tewa as the last shot in the series and Admiral Hanlon therefore planned to proceed with a firing date of July 17 unless the Commission instructed otherwise. General Starbird added that the Division of Biology and Medicine has indicated that the danger area for Operation REDWING should be maintained for two weeks after the tests are completed.

Mr. Libby requested that sufficient fall-out samples from the Tewa shot be collected so that the percentage of fall-out at various distances could be accurately determined.

General Starbird said he would hold a telecon conference with the Commander of the Joint Task Force later in the day to discuss the Tewa Shot, including the possibility of detonating it over water less than sixty feet deep.

After further discussion, the Commissioners agreed to delegate to the General Manager the authority to determine the location and time of the Tewa Shot.

W. B. McCool

Secretary

Approved by the Commission: Meeting 1229, September 26, 1956