

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 1305

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3:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 25, 1957

Present

W. F. Libby
Harold S. Vance
John S. Graham

K. E. Fields
Edward Diamond

W. B. McCool

Also Present

James E. Ammons
E. J. Bloch
John M. Bodley
Don S. Burrows
Victor Corso
R. W. Cook
Spofford G. English
Harvey Fireside
George M. Kavanagh
Charles L. Kelchner
Francis J. McCarthy
Paul W. McDaniel
John L. McGruder
James A. Miller
Calvin Potts
Louis H. Roddis
Brig. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird
Robert W. Zehring

REPOSITORY

NARA/Colley Park

COLLECTION

AEC Minutes (UN3-326 - 92-006)

BOX No.

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FOLDER

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Mr. Strauss was en route to the IAEA Conference in Vienna.

1. AEC 939/6 - FY 1959 Budget Estimates (See minutes of Meetings 1302, 1303, and 1304)

The Commissioners resumed consideration of AEC 939/6 - FY 1959 Budget Estimates.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEW-DATE: 9/8/95	DETERMINATION [CIRCLE NUMBER(S)]
AUTHORITY: <input type="checkbox"/> AOC <input type="checkbox"/> ADP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADD	1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED
NAME: C. Williams	2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
2ND REVIEW-DATE: 9-11-95	3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO
AUTHORITY: ADD	4. COORDINATE WITH:
NAME: DCY/MLL	5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
	6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED
	7. OTHER (SPECIFY): PAGES 457-466

Burke's recent comments, had included this project in the 1959 ship-building program and had established 1962 as a target date for launching of the completed vessel. Mr. Vance requested that an inquiry be made to determine whether there has been any change concerning this item in the Department of the Navy's FY 1959 budget.

Special Nuclear Materials

Mr. Bloch reviewed the Equipment and Process Development items in the special nuclear materials budget estimates. He said that \$20 million of the equipment item is considered essential to provide for replacements of equipment, and that the \$29.6 million for the Process Development item would be necessary to maintain an adequate program of plant support, although it would not provide for further cost reductions. Mr. Vance observed that the Equipment item had been substantially increased from the FY 1957 figure of \$12.8 million. Mr. Burrows explained that the FY 1957 funds had been insufficient and that, therefore, at least \$20 million was required to maintain this program at a satisfactory level in FY 1959.

Mr. Bloch then reviewed the various improvements which could be made under the \$78 million request for feed materials. Mr. Vance remarked that this was a reasonable request in view of the scale of operations involved.

Mr. Libby suggested that existing facilities at Hanford and Savannah River rather than a new plant be utilized for development work on the reprocessing of fuel elements from civilian power reactors, and Mr. Bloch said that recommendations on such a course of action would be submitted to the Commission.

Weapons

General Starbird summarized the weapons testing operations planned for FY 1959 and described the programs planned at the Nevada and Pacific Test Sites at an approximate cost of \$45 million, as opposed to the cost of \$53.8 million for Operation REDWING. In response to a question by Mr. Libby, General Starbird said that, although a comparison of respective costs was not available for Operations REDWING and HARDTACK due to the overlapping of the

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fiscal years, the AEC test program for Operation HARDTACK was scheduled to include 25 shots, while Operation REDWING had included only 17 shots. Mr. Vance said that he believed the scope of Operation HARDTACK would be reduced in view of the President's statement regarding future tests, but General Starbird observed that even under prospective reductions, the total number of shots for the AEC and the DOD would probably be the same as that in Operation REDWING.

Mr. Libby inquired whether savings would be achieved by including a greater number of underground shots in the test planned at the Nevada Test Site and General Starbird replied that balloon shots had proved to be less expensive than the underground detonations.

General Starbird then reviewed in detail the construction items for the Nevada Test Site and the Eniwetok Proving Ground and said that these items were considered essential for the execution of further tests. In reply to a question by Mr. Vance, Mr. Fields explained that the \$2 million requested for construction of Site 300 additions for Livermore was considered essential for continuation of the high explosives program.

Physical Research

Mr. McDaniel commented on the additional funds requested by the Research Division in order to expand basic research activities in physics, chemistry and metallurgy. Mr. Vance observed that the Division request for \$86.3 million represented an increase of approximately \$15 million over the level of FY 1958 expenditures. Mr. Burrows pointed out, however, that the Commission was asked to consider the General Manager's request of \$71 million.

Training, Education and Information

Mr. Vance commented on the increase of funds over the FY 1958 level in the Operation of Schools item and in the Division of International Affairs request. Mr. Burrows explained that these additional funds were required for operation of the Puerto Rico Training Center.