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1253rd AEC Meeting 12-10-56
3. AEC 944/2 Proposed Test Plans for CY 1957 (pp. 117-122)

Mr. Fields referred to the recommendation of AEC 944/2 that Plan III outlined in the staff paper be approved for conduct of Operation PILGRIM and said that the Commission had indicated at Meeting 1252 on December 5, 1956, that it approved this recommendation subject to concurrence by Mr. Strauss and Mr. Murray.

Mr. Strauss said he had not had an opportunity to consider AEC 944/2, but that he was concerned about the underground shot occurring simultaneously with an earthquake and the effect of such an event on the weapon testing program. Mr. Libby remarked that such a possibility was extremely remote and pointed out the advantages of such testing from the standpoint of fallout. After some discussion, Mr. Strauss proposed that the underground shot be conditioned upon a favorable report from a group of seismologists.

Mr. Murray then read a memorandum* in which he stated that based on Dr. Dunham's evaluation of the estimated biological radiation doses, that he could not approve Plan III of AEC 944/2, and suggested that in order to avoid any test which might affect the continuance of the NTS that Plan II be used instead. This Plan proposes that the six difficult shots be scheduled for Operation HARDTACK rather than Operation PILGRIM.

Mr. Libby stated that based on his work of measuring and studying the rate of decay of radiation, he believed that these six difficult shots could be tested at the NTS without risk.

After further discussion, the Commission agreed that AEC 944/2 would be scheduled for further consideration of December 12, 1956.