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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 1252

pages 763, 765-769 only  
NND 982027  
SDT/CAD 7/14/98

11:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 5, 1956

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Present

W. F. Libby  
Thomas E. Murray  
Harold S. Vance

K. E. Fields  
William Mitchell  
  
W. B. McCool

Also Present

James E. Ammons  
Lt. Col. Eugene A. Blue  
Comdr. John W. Crawford  
John A. Derry  
Dr. Charles L. Dunham  
Manuel Dupkin, II  
Charles F. Eason  
Paul C. Fine  
Robert E. Hollingsworth  
George M. Kavanagh  
Bryan F. LaPlante  
Charles L. Marshall  
Capt. Kenneth F. Musick

Donald F. Musser  
Curtis A. Nelson  
William L. Oakley  
Calvin Potts  
Harold L. Price  
Louis H. Roddis  
Morse Salisbury  
Rodney L. Southwick  
Brig. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird  
John P. Trevithick  
J. A. Waters  
Robert W. Zehring  
Alvin C. Graves, LASL

Mr. Strauss could not attend the meeting because he was visiting the University of North Carolina reactor.

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DOE CLASSIFIED ON PAGE 764

Page(s) 764 remain(s) classified.

The withheld page(s) will be coordinated with the  
Department of Energy under NND 982027.

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from the test series outlined in AEC 944 was 6,600 megacuries in contrast to 4,000 megacuries as estimated under the test plans outlined in AEC 944/2.

General Starbird then commented on the work of the planning board which had been established to consider radiological safety criteria as well as means of reducing local fallout. He said that in view of the Commission discussion at Meeting 1246, an accelerated review had been made of each planned shot to determine how the estimated fallout of these shots could be reduced and that the 4,000 megacurie figure was the result of this review.

Mr. Libby said that in accordance with Commission discussion at Meeting 1246, he had reviewed radiation effects data. He then commented on the basis of the calculations made of the radiation doses received by individuals in the vicinity of NTS and observed that the actual radiation doses received by these people are probably less by a factor of two than the measured values. Therefore, he said he believed the 10 roentgen limit for radiological criteria was a conservative figure.

The Commissioners discussed with Mr. Graves the manner in which radiation doses had been measured at NTS. Mr. Libby suggested that although the figures used at NTS are conservative, an improved and expanded monitoring program should be conducted in the communities surrounding NTS. He said that the new figures would be valuable in an examination of the fallout problem at NTS prior to the next test series after Operation PILGRIM.

Mr. Murray then commented on the possibility of moving some of the proposed shots such as the 60 kiloton shot, to the Eniwetok Proving Ground. He said that this action might preclude any adverse public reaction which would affect the availability of NTS for future tests. Mr. Graves commented that the proposed 60 kiloton shot would be a high tower shot and would actually be less difficult than some of the other

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proposed shots. Mr. Murray then discussed with Mr. Graves and Mr. Salisbury the public relations aspects of conducting large shots such as the 60 kiloton shot at NTS.

Mr. Murray said that although Mr. Libby's comments about the conservative nature of the figures on radiation doses received by individuals in communities in the vicinity of NTS did affect the Commission's previous position on the transfer of some large shots to the Pacific, he believed this question should be discussed. Mr. Libby said that information received after Operation PILGRIM on fallout would confirm whether his position on the 10 roentgen figure was correct but that he did not believe there is any possibility that the 10 roentgen figure would be achieved by a single shot. Mr. Graves then commented briefly on fallout figures of previous shots.

The Commissioners discussed with General Starbird the estimated fallout of the individual shots proposed for Operation PILGRIM. Mr. Libby said that he believed Plan III as outlined in AEC 944/2 would be satisfactory for the conduct of Operation PILGRIM.

Mr. Murray said that in view of Mr. Libby's comments on the conservative nature of estimates of fallout as well as his questions on transferring some shots to the Pacific, he would like to reserve his position on AEC 944/2 until he had reviewed the staff paper again. He then asked about the length on the periods set for the tests, and General Starbird discussed the reason for extending the test period from May to October.

The Commissioners discussed at length the extended test operation and the possibility of conducting the tests as a two-phase operation. General Starbird commented on the problems of conducting a two-phase test series, and Mr. Libby then commented on the need to compress the length of the proposed one-phase operation.

After further discussion, Mr. Libby and Mr. Vance approved the recommendations of AEC 944/2, subject to a

AEC executive salaries, and Mr. Mitchell pointed out that this matter would also be submitted in a separate staff paper.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the proposal to obtain authority to negotiate long-term contracts to purchase special nuclear material from foreign countries and said that this would provide authority to establish prices for a seven year period for foreign material. Mr. Mitchell also commented on the absence of a proposal on the Public Utilities Holding Company Act in accordance with the Commission's previous decision that the AEC would not submit a legislative proposal on this subject.

The Commissioners discussed with Mr. Mitchell the possible alternative of informally requesting the JCAE, rather than the AEC, to sponsor certain legislation. Mr. Libby indicated that he would speak to some JCAE members about the JCAE submitting legislation to increase AEC executive salaries.

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Mr. Mitchell then commented briefly on the proposal for indemnity legislation and said that representatives of several insurance companies had indicated that they would not be able to prepare insurance premium schedules or policy forms by January 1, 1957.

After further discussion, the Commission:

- a. Approved the legislative proposals set forth in Appendix "A" to AEC 941/2 as the Commission's proposed legislative program for 1957;
- b. Noted that the Office of the General Counsel will prepare an appropriate letter transmitting to the Bureau of the Budget the Commission's legislative program for 1957 in the form of one or more draft bills with accompanying justifications and requesting the Bureau's advice as to the relationship of the proposals to the legislative program of the President;
- c. Noted that the proposed statutory language to protect members of the public against uninsured liability arising from hazards in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy will be submitted to the Commission for approval prior to its submission to the Bureau of the Budget;
- d. Noted that proposed legislation to increase AEC executive salaries will be the subject of a separate staff paper;
- e. Noted that the proposed legislation to authorize use of funds to minimize personal expenditures by employees in connection with the move to Germantown (AEC 941/1) was approved by the Commission at Meeting 1246 on November 14, 1956;

f. Noted that a separate staff paper would be submitted concerning proposed legislation to provide that the JCAE may waive the 30-day waiting

period for the legislation to become effective;

g. Noted that AEC 941/2 is Unclassified.

3. Approval of Declassification Guide

Mr. Murray said that he had been informed that the U.K. and Canada had approved the declassification guide and that it would be effective today.

4. Executive Session\*

- a. AEC 25/62 - Transportation of Weapons
- b. AEC 811/4 - Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy
- c. Director for ANL

W. B. McCool

Secretary

Approved by the Commission: Meeting 1293, June 27, 1957.

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\*Separate minutes for this part of the meeting have been circulated.