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AEC 129/65

July 30, 1956

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT TO THE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

Note by the Secretary

1. The General Manager has requested that the attached report by the Controller be circulated for consideration by the Commission during the week of July 30, 1956.

2. Part II - Special Nuclear Materials - and Part III - Weapons - of the Quarterly Progress Report are TOP SECRET and are being circulated separately as AEC 129/66 and AEC 129/67, respectively.

W. B. McCool

Secretary

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US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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 NPickens 12/18/85
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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON ATOMIC ENERGY - APRIL-JUNE 1956

Report to the General Manager by the Controller

1. In accordance with the plan outlined in the Chairman's letter of August 24, 1955, to Senator Anderson, four classified progress reports are to be submitted to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy during each year, as of the end of each calendar quarter.

2. The report submitted herewith, for the period April - June 1956, is not intended necessarily to be a comprehensive summary of all AEC activities, but is primarily to update the Program Status Report, December 31, 1955, and the Quarterly Progress Report, January - March 1956.

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3. All material in the report except the summary of REDWING results has been written as of June 30, 1956. Most developments occurring after the June 30 date can and probably should be held for the July - September report. However, if it appears that there are more recent items of sufficient importance to be added to the report, the addition can best be accomplished by the use of footnotes.

4. Appendix "A" contains portions of the report bearing a classification of SECRET or lower. Part II - Special Nuclear

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Materials and Part III - Weapons are being distributed as separate staff papers and are TOP SECRET.

5. As in the past, Part III - Weapons will be printed as a separate TOP SECRET document to facilitate strict control of its distribution. The remainder of the report will be printed as two documents: one, containing Part II - Special Nuclear Materials, will be TOP SECRET and will receive only slightly wider distribution than the Weapons report; the other, containing neither Part II nor Part III, will be SECRET and will be printed for distribution among the Commission's principal staff. Distribution of these documents will be in accordance with lists approved by the General Manager.

STAFF JUDGMENTS

6. The Divisions of Raw Materials, Production, Military Application, Reactor Development, Civilian Application, Research, Biology and Medicine, and International Affairs have cleared the sections of the report relating to their respective activities.

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RECOMMENDATION

7. The General Manager recommends that the Atomic Energy Commission:

a. Approve, for transmittal to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, the report attached as Appendix "A", and Part II (Special Nuclear Materials) and Part III (Weapons) being circulated as AEC 129/66 and AEC 129/67, respectively.

b. Note that the printed report will be transmitted to the JCAE by letter such as Appendix "B".

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APPENDIX "A"

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

APRIL - JUNE 1956

DOE APPROVED

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* Transmitted as a separate document.

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Pages 6-29 were judged irrelevant
to the CIC collection effort and were
not copied

6-29

PART VII

BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Radiation Shielding and Correlative Biology (UNCLASSIFIED)

A survey group visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in April to obtain first-hand information on shielding data collected by the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission on individuals exposed to the atomic detonations of August 1945. The data may be used in laboratory and full-scale field tests in the United States to develop better estimates of the radiation doses received by individual Japanese.

Weapon Effects

Technical assistance was provided for activities related to Operation REDWING. Members of the biology and medicine staff served with the Joint Office of Test Information for the two shots for uncleared observers and on the Advisory Panel to the Test Director to advise on radiological matters. During the tests, the Commission's New York Health and Safety Laboratory conducted aerial surveys in the test area to assist surface ships in delineating fallout patterns as early as possible. The aerial radiological monitoring equipment used was similar to that demonstrated in Operation ARMS in the 1955 test series at the Nevada Test Site. Liaison was also provided between Joint Task Force 7 and representatives of the Federal Civil Defense Administration.

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Larger numbers of weapon test reports were expected to be released.

As noted in the Nineteenth Semiannual Report, an effort was made in the 1955 weapon test series to write weapon test reports in a completely unclassified form. Seventeen of the 37 preliminary civil effects test reports were issued as unclassified, and an even higher proportion of the final reports will be issued as unclassified documents. Several hundred classified reports from earlier test series will be declassified and released when the revised AEC-Department of Defense Classification Guide is issued.

West Coast Fish Monitoring

The U. S. Food and Drug Administration in April began a routine spot-checking of all species of fish caught in the Pacific to check for the presence of radioactivity. The need for the monitoring program was discussed by representatives of the State Department, the Food and Drug Administration, the Japanese Embassy, and the Commission. FDA representatives stated that the monitoring program falls within their statutory responsibility to determine that all imported foods are fit for human consumption. The Japanese representatives contended that the Japanese people might be disturbed to learn that similar precautions were not being taken for their protection. No radioactivity has been detected in fish since FDA monitoring began.

Committee on Respiratory Protective Equipment

Steps were taken in April to investigate the adequacy of respiratory protective equipment used in atomic energy plants. A committee was established to study the problem and to suggest improvements in equipment. Members of the committee are AEC contractor personnel.

Premature Aging and Life Shortening

Studies were continued to determine how radiation contributes to premature aging and life shortening in animals and humans. These studies may reveal the biological mechanisms involved and the relative effectiveness of large single exposures as opposed to continuous or repeated small doses. Much information has been accumulated for analysis and further evaluation.

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Pages 32-40 were judged irrelevant
to the CIC Collection effort and were
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APPENDIX "B"

DRAFT LETTER TO CHAIRMAN, JCAE

1. Transmitted herewith is the Atomic Energy Commission's Quarterly Progress Report for the period April - June 1956, which is intended primarily to update the Program Status Report, December 31, 1955, and the Quarterly Progress Report, January - March 1956. The next such report will cover the quarter ending September 30, 1956.

2. As in the past, we have prepared our report as two separate documents in order to facilitate the safeguarding of information on the weapons program.

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2/21/85

PARTIAL DOCUMENT RECORD SHEET

Re. AEC 129/65

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Document Pages 3-26 and 29-40 *

Enclosures _____

Attachments _____

Other _____

Title page and table of contents have been copied for reference.

W. Turch
signature

12-23-85
date

* Folder pages 6-29 and 32-40

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