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Folder BI-Weekly Report To The President - 1965 GTS

October 26, 1965

Dear Mr. President:

I have the pleasure of submitting the regular bi-weekly report on significant developments in the atomic energy program:

1. Site Location for National Accelerator Laboratory

I met with members of the Midwest Resources Association on October 12 in connection with site proposals for the 200 BeV accelerator. This Association, comprised of 12 midwest governors as well as the Congressional delegations from the 12-state area, presented its contention that the accelerator should be located in the midwest because that area is not getting its share of the federal funds in support of basic and applied research projects.

On October 13 I met with Governor Rhodes of Ohio, Senator Lausche, and other members of that State's Congressional delegation. Governor Rhodes amended the Ohio proposals by stating the state was prepared to contribute \$10 million towards the facility without any specific restrictions if it is located in Ohio.

2. Nevada Test Site Labor Situation

After a week of intensified negotiations under the leadership of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service panel, a memorandum of agreement was signed during the night of Saturday, October 23, by the contractor and all unions except the Teamsters. The signatory unions are to take the basis for settlement to their membership for a ratification vote by Tuesday, October 26.

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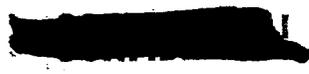
BY J. KAHN, DATE: 9/11/91

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In summary, the proposed basis of settlement provides for five-year contracts which will include a uniform subsistence allowance plus fixed allowances, which vary by area where work is performed, in lieu of travel pay. If the unions ratify the agreement, it is anticipated that their members will return to work even though no settlement has been reached with the Teamsters with whom negotiations are continuing.

3. AEC-Maritime Agreement

An AEC-Maritime Administration Liaison Committee has been established by an Agreement with Alan Boyd, Under Secretary of Commerce for Transportation, which became effective on October 18. The purpose of the Agreement is to assure continued coordination of Maritime and AEC programs directed toward the development of nuclear merchant ships.

4. Dedication Ceremony for Arkansas Reactor

Commissioner Tape will attend the dedication ceremony tomorrow, October 27, marking the start of construction of the Southwest Experimental Fast Oxide Reactor (SEFOR) near Fayetteville, Arkansas. This is a small, 20 thermal megawatt, fast-spectrum, sodium cooled reactor which is expected to contribute significant technology for our fast breeder program. It is an unusual cooperative venture that involves 17 private power utilities from the southwest and midwest called the Southwest Atomic Energy Associates; General Electric, the constructor; research and development assistance from the AEC; and five million dollars in financial assistance from a West German nonprofit corporation and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM). Participation of the West German Corporation marks the first direct financial participation within the U. S. of a foreign concern in the reactor field. The reactor is expected to be completed in the spring of 1968.

5. Plans to Terminate Mobile Reactor Program

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The Commission has re-evaluated the development program for the Mobile Low Power Plant No. 1 (ML-1) and has concluded that the program should be terminated during

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FY 1966. The \$2 million FY 1966 appropriation will be used to phase out the development effort. The ML-1 is a transportable plant of 300 electrical kilowatts capacity being developed in our Army Reactors program. A major consideration in the AEC decision was the Army's recently expressed position that high initial costs of ML-1 type systems outweigh the logistical advantages. The reactor test program has been carried out at the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho. The prime contractor is Aerojet General Corporation of San Ramon, California. An estimated 160 contractor employees will be affected by the program termination.

6. Summary of Mutual Defense Meeting in London (CONFIDENTIAL)

The annual United States-United Kingdom Stocktake Meeting to review progress and plans under the US-UK Agreement for Cooperation in the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes took place in London October 6-8. Commissioner Tapp was among those attending for the U. S.

The cooperation in nuclear weapons development was extended to cover U. S. weapons development through the MK 61, U. S. tactical bomb. The British are cooperating, in turn, with the U. S. in all of their nuclear weapons developments. The barter program (exchange of nuclear materials) is proceeding on schedule.

Cooperation with the U. K. in their Polaris program continues on schedule, with first deliveries to the U. K. due in Mid-1966. Whether the U. K. will request AEC cooperation in their confirmatory (test) firings of their Polaris warheads is awaiting decision at top levels of the U. K. Government.

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The U. K. representatives at the Stocktake Meeting indicated that their requirement for the U. S. Army LANCE weapons system was presently under study and a decision on a requirement for this weapon system will be made in the not too distant future.

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7. Implementation of the Beautification Program

AEC is continuing its participation in the implementation of the Beautification Program. Initial efforts were made last spring when we asked the managers of our field offices to devise plans for beautification of their facilities through planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers.

Now, in the spirit of the recently passed beautification legislation, the General Manager has dispatched a memorandum to the field office managers urging them to intensify and augment their planting programs for existing buildings and grounds, reminding them that they can utilize the consultative services of the National Park Service landscape architects in this respect. Additionally, the General Manager's memorandum insisted that all AEC installations strive for aesthetic excellence in new construction, emphasizing that our design criteria state specifically that designing for economy in construction costs "does not preclude aesthetic considerations."

8. Thyroid Examinations in Utah and Arizona

The Public Health Service has conducted studies since 1963 in Utah and Arizona to determine if nuclear testing has resulted in any increase to normal incidences of thyroid cancer or other diseases. Recent examination of the thyroid glands of 2,000 students in the 10 to 18 age bracket in Washington County, Utah recently resulted in suggestive findings of thyroid nodules in about 70 students. Approximately 25 were found among a control group of 1,400 similar students of Green County, Arizona. Subsequent re-examination by a team of six doctors showed that nodules could only be positively identified by all six doctors in 17 of the cases in Utah and in none of the cases in Arizona. The Surgeon General has formed a panel of nationally known experts to again re-examine all suspected patients and make recommendations as to further tests.

A joint press release is planned for October 27, with the Utah State Department of Health, announcing the initial results of these studies and the planned activities of the panel of experts.

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9. Thyroid Disease in Rongelap Islanders

Since the Bravo shot over Bikini in March 1954, the AEC has regularly surveyed the residents of the Marshall Islands for possible ill effects resulting from fallout from the detonation. The first suspected abnormalities were discovered among Rongelapese Islanders in the February 1964 survey; three teenagers were found to have nodules in the thyroid, all of which were shown on further examination to be nonmalignant. In June 1965 three more Rongelapese were discovered with thyroid nodules. Of these, two were teenagers with benign nodules and one was a 41-year old woman whose thyroid was cancerous. All these six have successfully undergone surgery for removal of the abnormal tissue.

Recently an interim visit was made to the Marshall Islands. On this survey, thyroid nodules were found in five Marshallese and suspicious thyroid contours in five more. To summarize, eleven of eighty-two Marshallese have been found to have definite abnormalities of their thyroid tissues and five more are considered questionably so.

The non-exposed control population continues to be free of nodular thyroid disease. Surgery is being arranged for the five new cases of nodular thyroid disease. Meanwhile, therapy with synthetic thyroid hormone has been instituted in an effort to control further nodule formation.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Glenn T. Seaborg

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Glenn T. Seaborg

The President  
The White House

cc: McGeorge Bundy