

APR 21 1959

Dr. A. C. Graves, Leader, J-Division
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico

James E. Reeves, Assistant Manager
Office of Test Operations

**PROPOSED TRANSFER OF RAD-SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES OPERATIONAL PERIODS
AT EPG**

SYMBOL: TR:CLM-1506

4/22 - Call V. re this.

Thank you for your reply of April 1, 1959 commenting on our memorandum dated January 21, 1959 concerning the subject comments.

Your memorandum has been reviewed and it appears that the intent of our proposal was not made clear to you. In clarification, the following explanation is offered:

It is not our intention to take over any of the radiological safety responsibilities of the user groups. Our plan, we believe, will provide rad-safe services acceptable to the laboratories and will not usurp any of their recognized responsibilities. The philosophy that rad-safety is a command responsibility would still apply as for past operations. Under the present system, the 7.1 Organization provided the service for all groups but did not have the responsibility for the Holmes & Narver, Inc., employees. Our proposal would not change this philosophy but would only change the organization to supply the rad-safe services. It is my honest opinion that, on a continuing basis, we can provide this service better and more economically than by the utilization of a military unit.

Another important consideration is that we would be able to have continuity between the operational and non-operational periods through utilization of the contractor's organization.

You are no doubt cognizant of the fact that Holmes & Narver's radiological safety organization provides all the rad-safety services for all user agencies at EPG during the interim periods and for TG 7.5 during the operational periods. During Hardtack, Phase I, they maintained a complement of 14 persons. A Rad-Safety Officer, electronic technician, chemistry technician, senior field monitor, and a clerk were assigned to each stall to work with TU-6 personnel to provide rad-safety services for TG 7.5. Three full-time rad-safe technicians were

(Continued)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

COPIED/DON
KAWL RG

APR 21 1959

Dr. A. C. Graves

- 2 -

stationed at Eniwetok to work as clerks or monitors as required. All of these personnel worked with and assisted TU-6 in carrying out its assigned mission. It is my understanding that TU-6 strength was approximately 80 - 100, depending upon the period of the operation.

The proposed transfer and subsequent responsibility for rad-safety services would be accomplished by expansion of the existing organization. Our proposal for furnishing this service contemplates that Holmes & Narver will staff its rad-safety unit with competent health physicists and trained technicians comparable to that furnished in past operations by TU-6. I am confident that this will meet the needs of all agencies requiring rad-safety services. Certainly one cannot disagree with the fact that there are tasks that require a minimum of knowledge of radiological safety, such as supply issues, decontamination, and check point monitoring. These positions could very easily be staffed by non-professional personnel. The military personnel obtained from the USA 1st RESU for performing these tasks are definitely not technical or professional personnel; the job does not require that degree of professional training. As a matter of interest concerning the technical capabilities of H&N, they are now establishing an environmental sampling program at EPG and will soon be capable of performing radio-chemical analysis for specific isotopes.

There is every reason to believe that an exchange of qualified and trained technicians can be accomplished by mutual agreement between RESCO and H&N, although we have not attempted to do this in the past. Such an arrangement would provide a source of trained personnel to support a crash program.

It is hoped that you did not construe our proposal as indicating a dissatisfaction with the TG 7.1 Rad-Safety Unit. You are familiar with our desires to have our Support Contractor provide all the support for user groups. I strongly believe that rad-safety falls in this category, whether at either NTS or EPG. As we define it, the rad-safety services supplied by RESCO at NTS are a support service, and in referring to H&N rad-safety service at EPG, we have in mind a similar service. It is believed that the conduct of rad-safety operations at NTS has been most satisfactory, and that a similar service should be established at EPG.

CC: Dr. Duane G. Sewell, UC LBL, Livermore, Calif
Julius P. Molnar, Sandia Corp, Alb, New Mex
Col. William B. Hutchinson, Weapons Effects Tests, AFSC
Dr. Thomas L. Shipman, Director, H-Div, LBL

COPIED/DWG
KARL RC