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FOLDER MR & A 7-1, Vol. III

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MR & A 7-1 Box 186
Vol. III

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BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC
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Carl Wilson
REVIEWED BY
BY T. Fehner 3/20/86

January 3, 1957

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MEMORANDUM For the General Manager

Subject: COMMENTS ON DELETION OF PARAGRAPH "3.b" FROM
RADIOLOGICAL SAFETY CRITERIA FOR THE NEVADA
TEST SITE (AEC 141/33)

It is felt that the criterion of 3.9 roentgens for this test series, although much less restrictive and therefore, desirable from the testing point of view, will be widely interpreted to mean 3.9 for each future series which would amount to some 60 roentgens in 30 years of testing at the rate of a series every 2 years. This far exceeds the National Academy of Sciences recommendation of 10 roentgens in the first 30 years of life for the U. S. population as a whole. Also, the figure of 60 exceeds the NAS recommendation of 50 roentgens for an individual up to age 30.

DBM states that the National Committee on Radiation Protection is preparing an interim public announcement of limiting radiation to 14,000,000 roentgens per 1,000,000 of population for first 30 years dose, which takes into account 4 r of background and medical exposure plus 10 r from sources such as testing. It is expressed in this way in order to handle exposure to populations satisfactorily on a statistical basis for genetic implications. This is in substantial agreement with NAS recommendations.

DBM's recommendation of 10 r in 10 years was arrived at as an acceptable guide for operational purposes that takes into account the recommendations of the NAS and the NCRP. Although the NAS report has not drawn a distinct dividing line between "individual persons" and "general population" the 10 r in 10 years takes into account that the AEC is dealing with neither of these categories around NTS. A full discussion of this particular point is given in Appendix A of AEC 141/33. Also, to be noted, is the fact that the 10 r in 10 years was discussed and approved by the Advisory Committee for DBM.

Further, without explicitly stating 10 r in 10 years, all that is left in the way of criteria is the old criteria of 3.9 r for the series. It is felt that this may leave the AEC in an awkward

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General Manager

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position in view of the general public concern over radiation exposure.

DIS is particularly concerned that the Commission will be unable to demonstrate to the public, news media and interested members of Congress that it has considered the NAS and NCRP views and has taken action to protect the populace in the NTS area. It is hoped that such action would minimize any possible public demand to close down the NTS.

In view of the above and with the concurrence of DBM and DIS it is felt that the AEC would be in a more tenable position to retain the "10 r in 10 years" as recommended in AEC 141/33 paragraph "3.b" .

Alfred D. Starbird
Brigadier General, USA
Director of Military Application

cc: Mr. Murray