Duncan Clark
Public Information Service

MAR 5 1954

Captain W. L. Guthrie, USN
Chief, Test Branch, DMA

410263

STATEMENTS ON CONTINENTAL RADIOACTIVITY DURING PACIFIC TEST SERIES

SYMBOL: MAT:GJA

Reference is made to your memorandum #4-2103 of March 2, 1954, subject as above, which requested concurrence or comment on a proposed draft on the subject matter.

We concur in the draft as submitted.

W. L. Guthrie
Captain, USN
Chief, Test Branch
Division of Military Application

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Dr. W.D. Claus, Div. of Biology & Medicine
Capt. W.L. Guthrie, Div. of Military Application
Charles Marshall, Office of Classification

March 2, 1954

Duncan Clark
Public Information Service

STATEMENTS ON CONTINENTAL RADIOACTIVITY DURING PACIFIC TEST SERIES

SYMBOL: ISP:DC

Attached is a draft of instructions which would be given to the U.S. Public Health Service by the Division of Biology and Medicine for use by PHS officials in making public statements regarding radioactivity during the test series. We believe it conforms with the conclusions reached at the March 2 meeting at which you were present.

May we have your concurrence or comment on the draft?

We intend to send AEC field information men a list of the AEC monitors and a copy of instructions given to PHS. The AEC monitors should notify the AEC information men, as well as the PHS, if readings go to five or more times background. AEC information men will give out the same information as the PHS in response to queries.

cc: Morse Salisbury, IS

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38

Draft
D. Clark
3/2/54

DRAFT INSTRUCTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE REGARDING STATEMENTS ON RADIOACTIVITY DURING TEST SERIES

The AEC liaison man at an installation will notify the Public Health Service officer if radioactivity increases to five or more times the normal background for the locality. The PHS officer will not initiate any public statement, but will respond only to inquiries.

In response to inquiries as to whether radioactivity is above background, and whether any hazard to health is involved, the PHS officer will make the following reply if fall-out has been detected: "Radioactivity is somewhat above the normal background level for this locality, but is far below levels which could be considered hazardous to human beings, animals or crops." (We assume this statement will be accurate for any conditions occurring during the series. If not, the AEC monitor would have notified the AEC in Washington, and PHS would be kept informed regarding the situation.)

Actual readings will not be given out by PHS officers unless there is specific demand for them. If readings are given out, they should be put into proper perspective. For example, the PHS officer could point out that the lowest external gamma exposure which produces any detectable effects on the blood when given in a few minutes or hours is 25 r, that 0.3 r per week is considered safe for indefinite exposure, and that radioactivity will drop to the normal background level before long. The Public Health Service official should confer with the AEC monitor regarding the best way of interpreting the readings.

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The PHS officer may refer to the AEC's March 1 announcement of the first detonation in the series, but he should not make any statements that additional shots have been fired, or indicating the number which may have been fired. To questions along this line, he should reply only by quoting the March 1 statement: "Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, announced today that Joint Task Force Seven has detonated an atomic device at the AEC's Pacific Proving Ground in the Marshall Islands. This detonation was the first in a series of tests."

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