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411808

The Director,
Argonne National Laboratory,
Box 299,
Lemont, Ill.,
U.S.A.

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

DATE: 25th October 1956.
VAR REF: ORK/AB

Dear Sir,

On routine urine analysis we have found appreciable amounts of plutonium in one of our scientists who recently returned from the Argonne Reactor School. A first investigation in the case from our side shows that the man in question has not worked with plutonium chemistry outside your laboratory and we therefore find it correct immediately to inform you about the particulars in the case.

The man in question is *who participated in the second Argonne course.* Most of his work with plutonium during the course took, according to information he himself has submitted, place in the months of April and May 1956 in your building 310. He returned to Norway this summer and we included him in one of our routine urine tests in August. The results of the test showed an amount which was, in our opinion, big enough to warrant some concern. Since we have only recently started making measurements of plutonium in urine we have got the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority to measure three samples to check our measurements. The figures we got from Dr. Williams of Harwell were of the same order of magnitude as ours. Below we give you the measured quantities and the date of the sample taking.

Plutonium content in 24 hours urine specimens of

<u>Date of the sample:</u>	<u>Measured at:</u>	<u>Plutonium content:</u>
31/8-56	Kjeller	$68,8 \pm 0,7 \times 10^{-12}$ gms
17/9-56	"	$46,4 \pm 0,5 \times - - -$
1/10-56	Harwell	$143,9 \pm 0,8 \times - - -$
2/10-56	"	$43,2 \pm 1,5 \times - - -$
3/10-56	"	$35,6 \pm 1,3 \times - - -$

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CLASSIFIED
DATE 01/04/84 BY SP4/DC/RSU
E WITH DCS
CLASSIFICATION/RELEASE

CONFIRMED TO BE DECLASSIFIED
DATE 01/04/84 BY SP4/DC/RSU

HR Schmidt 6/13/01
DO5 memo 200100765, 5/30/01

2-22-94

INSTITUTE FOR ATOMIC ENERGY
The Director,
Argonne National Laboratory,
Lemont, Ill.

This letter is in the first place written to inform you since if the up-take has taken place during the course, which, according to the information we have, seems very likely, you might like to check the procedures and facilities used and may be take some more tests from colleagues at the course, some of which I understand were also working with plutonium.

Secondly, not having much experience with the usual procedures in a case like this, we would be very interested in learning from you what action your medical people take when discovering plutonium amounts of the order here mentioned. We had in mind to put on plutonium work in this institute and we would therefore be specially interested in knowing whether you would think that any restrictions should be put on his future laboratory work.

Yours sincerely,

For INSTITUTE FOR ATOMIC ENERGY



Olav Robert Kasa
Assistant Director

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