



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

September 9, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN SEABORG
COMMISSIONER PALFREY
COMMISSIONER RAMEY
COMMISSIONER TAPE

SUBJECT: USPHS EPIDEMIOLOGY STUDIES IN SOUTHWESTERN UTAH

At Information Meeting 515 on Friday, September 3, 1965, I discussed the subject studies and indicated a report would be circulated. These studies were also mentioned at Information Meetings 514 and 513.

Tab A is a proposed article by Edward S. Weiss, U. S. Public Health Service, entitled "Leukemia Mortality Studies in Southwestern Utah", together with the AEC staff comments.

Tab B is a proposed study by the U. S. Public Health Service, entitled "Environmental and Genetic Factors in the Oral Dental and Medical Characteristics of Utah School Children", to examine children in southern Utah (Washington County), together with the AEC staff comments. An attempt will be made by the Public Health Service to correlate the results of these studies with radiation exposures from fallout that could have occurred in the 1950's, especially 1953.

Tab C is the U. S. Public Health Service proposed press release concerning the studies, the AEC comments on the press release, and a revised draft proposed by AEC.

Tab D is the proposed letter to be transmitted from the General Manager to Dr. Terry, U. S. Public Health Service.

Whereas, the U. S. Public Health Service has been conducting leukemia and thyroid studies for several years in Utah, they are "paper studies"; i.e., analyses of vital statistics. The proposed studies will encompass physical examinations of some 2,000 children in southern Utah and a so-called control group in southeastern Arizona (Safford County).

*-filed in B-P.

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As will be noted in the attachments, the AEC staff has serious reservations concerning the technical adequacy of the proposed studies. Some of the limiting factors are the small radiation exposures possibly received, location of the specific individuals potentially exposed in 1953, and the inadequate sample size. There is little hope that unequivocal data will be developed.

Although we do not oppose developing further data in these areas, performance of the above U.S. Public Health Service studies will pose potential problems to the Commission. The problems are:

- (a) Adverse public reaction;
- (b) Law suits; and
- (c) Jeopardizing the programs at the Nevada Test Site.

The General Manager would like to discuss this matter with the Commission at the Information Meeting on Friday, September 10.

Dwight A. Ink
Dwight A. Ink
Assistant General Manager

Attachments:

Tabs A thru D