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971st AEC Meeting 3-30-54
5. Implications of Current Tests

The General Manager commented on the implications for the AEC weapons program of the two tests held so far, particularly with reference to the production of tritium and lithium and the

continuation of cryogenics work.

The Commission concurred in this proposed action.

The General Manager pointed out that it appeared that the former minimum requirement for tritium was now the maximum, and that the test indicated the likelihood of being able to meet the JCS weapons requirements for 1955. While savings in the thermonuclear program are possible, additional expenditures will be required for utilizing the fissionable material which will become available through the reduction of enriched loadings for tritium.

The General Manager also pointed out that the test would probably not have a great impact on the lithium program since either larger yield or smaller size weapons can be achieved by the use of enriched lithium in varying percentages. Mr. Zuckert stated that before action was initiated to meet JCS requirements for the most powerful weapons, the Commission should ascertain what scaling method is being used to determine the size of the weapons required. He said that there was apparently disagreement within the Department of Defense as to the scaling laws that should be applied to thermonuclear weapons.

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