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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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January 8, 1953

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Dr. Norris E. Bradbury, Director  
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory  
P. O. Box 1663  
Los Alamos, New Mexico

*[Handwritten signature]*

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THRU: C. L. Tyler, Manager, SFOO

Dear Dr. Bradbury:

Reference is made to your letter dated 16 December 1952 giving the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory concept of CASTLE. Mr. Tyler, in a teletype No. S-03 dated 2 January 1952, has concurred with your recommendations and, in turn, recommended they be approved for detailed planning.

Your concept of Operation CASTLE follows the plan for six shots in early 1954 recently presented to, and approved by, the Commission. We note, however, that where the Commission, in discussions with the Department of Defense, indicated that the first CASTLE detonation would take place as soon after the first of the year as devices were ready, possibly as early as February 1954, your concept would look toward a date of about 1 March. We recognize that to establish a firm date for this event over a year in advance of the fact is not possible and that any date set is still a function of many variables. Because of our commitment, we must pursue the development of the various devices planned for test at the maximum possible speed but may, we think, defer setting an actual date for the first detonation until some time after the completion of UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE when our overall rate of progress has become better established.

Meanwhile, however, work on procurement of basic equipment such as barges, etc., and building of base and test facilities should proceed at such a rate that the site can support the earliest foreseeable test date for the first detonation. It follows then that at least one site for a large detonation should be completed in the Fall of 1953, with the balance of construction completed in time to accommodate a February date for first detonation. This would also bring our preparatory activities generally into phase with those on

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PER DOE REVIEW JAN. 1973

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW	
1ST REVIEWER-DATE: 6/16/84	DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))
AUTHORITY: OAC 201.10	1 CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO
NAME: W. M. Matheson	2 CONTINUED TO BE CLASSIFIED AND
2ND REVIEWER-DATE: 6-17-94	3 RECORDATORY ACTION
AUTHORITY: ADR	4 CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
NAME: [Signature]	5 CLASSIFIED AND

the part of the Joint Task Force which should result from Mr. Dean's letter to the Military Liaison Committee of 2 January 1953.

In summary, our plan should be for a test early in 1954, with provision for an emergency capability for a test in the Fall of 1953 in the event of exceptional progress in the development of any of the models.

With this slight change, your concept is approved for detailed planning purposes, subject to overall determination of availability of funds. We hope this last question will be resolved, at least in large measure, at meeting January 12-13 at Santa Fe Operations Office.

The Manager, Santa Fe Operations Office, is being advised by copy of this letter that your concept, as amended herein, is approved for detailed planning purposes.

Sincerely yours,

*R. G. Butler*

R. G. Butler  
Colonel, Ord Corps  
Deputy Director of  
Military Application

~~CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
PER DDB REVIEW JAN. 1973~~  
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