

April 25, 1977

Guy H. Cunningham, III
 Assistant General Counsel
 for Litigation

COMMENTS ON H.R. 6110

Your memorandum to James L. Liverman, AES, dated April 19 has been referred to this Division for comment.

Enclosed are rather specific comments on H.R. 6110 prepared by Dr. Weyzen. After talking to Dr. Eugene Cronkite, Chairman, Medical Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, I think Dr. Weyzen's first change needs some revision. "...dysfunction of the thyroid," may be too broad and Dr. Cronkite suggests, and I agree, that this might be modified to read, "...or who develops hypothyroidism." Dr. Weyzen's third comment has to do with the responsibility to provide medical care. Here the wording in the paragraph could be modified as Dr. Weyzen suggests if ERDA is prepared to accept this responsibility. I doubt this change is necessary or desirable. The other comments except for the change in 1 are fine.

SSC is aware of our comments.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

W. W. Burr, Jr., M. D.
 Deputy Director
 Division of Biomedical and
 Environmental Research

Enclosure:
 As stated

bcc: James L. Liverman, AES
 William Brown, OGC

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UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

April 21, 1977

W. W. Burr, Deputy Director, BER

COMMENTS ON H.R. BILL 6110

105 (a) (1) Change to:

The Secretary shall pay \$25,000 to each such individual from whom the thyroid gland or a neurofibroma was surgically removed, or who developed a dysfunction of the thyroid, or who develops a cancer known to be related to radiation exposure.

→ hypothyroidism

105 (a) (3) Comment:

Based on our experience with other exposed human populations to date, 105 (a) (1) covers all effects that one could expect to see. Section (3) is vague and very broad and should either be omitted or the wording should be changed to identify specifically "the injuries" that are covered.

105 (a) (4) Comment:

The wording gives Interior specifically the responsibility to provide medical care for exposed Marshallese. This raises the questions whether this is a deliberate change of the present status and whether we can live with this. On the other hand by changing words, ERDA could take the responsibility. ERDA never has been given official responsibility for the exposed Marshallese. This could be of help to justify ERDA support before Congress in the future.

105 (b) Comment:

This provision should be omitted from this Bill for two reasons -- it should not be in a compensation bill and the wording with regard to the spending of the funds is vague.

W. H. Weyzen
Walter H. Weyzen, Manager
Human Health Studies Program/BER

cc: Bill Brown, OGC