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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Fred C. Schlemmer, Manager, HDO

FROM: Lauriston S. Taylor, Chief, Applied Biophysics
Branch, Div. of Biol. and Medicine, Wash., D. C.

SUBJECT: RADIATION EXPOSURE RECORDS

DATE: January 3, 1949

The following statements are part of a far-reaching program which the Division of Biology and Medicine would like to undertake. We would appreciate your giving this memorandum wide distribution throughout your own organization and among all of your contractors. We have taken the liberty of transmitting a similar memorandum to the Manager of the Schenectady Area.

We have been asked to give consideration to the possibility of establishing a standard system for reporting radiation exposures from the various AEC installations. The purpose of such a proposal is to develop and maintain pertinent information on radiation exposures for future correlation with medical data. This is primarily to be part of a long-range scientific experiment in which we can visualize the necessity for reviewing such records over the next 50 years. Accordingly, it is highly desirable that all such information maintain a certain degree of uniformity both in detail presentation and in the general correlation of information presented. The only immediate value in maintaining a standard reporting system would lie in providing a source of information from which could be deduced over-all trends in the number and degree of severity of radiation exposures.

Any standardized reporting system would serve its normal purpose of providing your own organization with the necessary information for all individuals whether or not they may have ever received enough radiation at any time to require medical attention. The records of each institution should be prepared with a view that they may be called into use at any time within the next 50 years, and hence their proper storage is a problem to be considered.

It has been suggested by one of the Directed Operations that we standardize all health physics records throughout the Commission. We are not in a position to pass on this since at the moment we are uncertain as to what would be involved in such a move. It would be most helpful if you could send this office a brief summary of what information you keep, how it is kept, and copies of your various data and report forms. We would also appreciate any of your comments and ideas on how the objective outlined above can best be accomplished. It may be that the forms on which the information is now kept by the various sites will be adequate for the job without any changes. In undertaking the problem we would like, however, to assure ourselves of this fact by studying the material from each site.

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