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TO : Howard C. Brown, Jr., Executive Officer
Division of Biology and Medicine

DATE: November 14, 1952

FROM : Walter D. Claus, Chief, Biophysics Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine

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SUBJECT: STUDY OF OPERATIONAL FUTURE - NEVADA PROVING GROUNDS

SYMBOL: BMBP:WDC

Following are some of my thoughts in connection with the attached memo of Tyler to Fields on the above subject.

Certainly, in view of the present situation, a study group of the kind suggested by Tyler is in order. As for our own participation, if Dr. Bugher is to be our chief representative, he should have one or more alternates at the working level - either Dunning or myself - who will be able to devote a great deal of continuing attention to the problem. The chairmanship of R. E. Cole may leave something to be desired, not because of personal deficiencies in Cole, but because this group ought to be headed by someone who can speak authoritatively for the management. I would suggest Kraker as being not too important for this task.

This gives me an opportunity to suggest that the NPG might not be in its present difficulty if there had been on the job during the past year or more a competent health physicist who had been devoting full time to the problems of the site. I would envisage this person as attached to the AEC staff at Las Vegas, and actually operating a small laboratory either at Mercury or at Control Point. He would be in charge of all phases of personnel monitoring at, and in the vicinity of, the site and would provide the needed continuity from one military group to another. Between tests, he would be in full charge of radiological safety during clean-up and construction periods. He would also have research problems of sorts to work on, as for example, types of earth covering around the towers which would minimize dusting during shots. Obviously, this man should have background and mature judgment in health physics problems. I discussed this item with Jack Clark when he was here last week, and found a most sympathetic ear. I would suggest that the matter be given very serious consideration by the proposed Committee.

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