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U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

For William W. Bussell (case) 11/331-1

Special authorizing change in classification

By Jubin W. Green (Signature of person making the change, and date)

FOLDER 105/500 20, 1955
Castle General

Dr. John G. Bagher
Division of Biology and Medicine
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

~~This material contains information affecting the national defense within the meaning of the Espionage Laws of the United States and the transmission or revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.~~

John Berris told me that he spoke to you briefly in Nevada concerning a continuation at a forthcoming Redwood test of the telemetering program which has been going on in Nevada. Actually, our thinking processes along this line have been rather derisive. Dick House is anxious to sign up someone as Surgeon to the Task Force, a job comparable to the one held by Major Liffon at Ivy. He recommended Capt. Woodward who is currently assigned to Los Alamos. Unfortunately, it seems that he does not have quite enough rank for the job - there ought to be at least a major. Payne Berris would be an excellent man for the job but I know very definitely that he would not wish to go out there for the third time without more work to do than this job alone would involve. Remembering the interest which he showed in the Little Telemetering project which he had at Ivy, I asked him whether he would be interested in taking a larger program under his wing, in addition to the position of Task Force Surgeon. He assured me that he would find the job most acceptable.

It also occurred to me that a Task Force Surgeon with responsibilities in two stalls should probably have a deputy, which would be a very satisfactory way of getting Capt. Woodward into the act. Kent Woodward is a very competent young physician and could take much of the routine, permitting Berris to devote his major activities to the telemetering work.

None of us here is quite certain how to get such a ball rolling although there are many very good arguments in favor of such a program, not the least of which is the fact that we now apparently have instruments which are pretty reliable. The next test at Redwood, it seems to me, will certainly involve a number of situations where people on shipboard would like to know the radiation level on some particular island without the necessity of sending a helicopter and a monitor to that island to find out. A chain of telemetering stations could in this way cut down considerably on the personnel requirements of a Red-Safe unit. The same or similar instruments could subsequently be used in Nevada, thereby saving monitors such unnecessary exposure.

I personally think that this matter is of sufficient interest and importance to the Task Force for them to sponsor it. As your Division, however, has already been in the act, I feel that probably you should be heard from first.

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Dr. John C. Dugher

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May 26, 1953

Perhaps a recommendation from you to General Clarkson would be enough to start things moving. It might be advisable to place the project actually under the wing of the Red-Safe unit in order to avoid establishing an additional numbered project.

Your thoughts on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.

THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.
Health Division Leader

TLS/lea

cc: Graves
Servis
File

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