

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

404804

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

WASHINGTON 25

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

February 24, 1953

IN YOUR REPLY  
REFER TO FILE

40

366

Dr. John C. Bugher, Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
1901 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bugher:

With reference to your memorandum of 19 February, I think it would be desirable to discuss the question of integrating individual exposures over periods of longer than one week. This has been discussed at some length by Dr. Failla's subcommittee on the NCRP, and I believe it is generally felt that for most purposes, a week is a suitable time over which the exposure should be integrated. On the other hand, because of the possibility of people receiving occasional larger exposures, it may be possible to consider integration over a period as long as, say, a month, or three months. This might necessitate a lowering of the permissible annual exposure, or involve some other limitations which I do not think of at the moment. An important consideration in this connection would be the influence of such a philosophy on large atomic energy plant operations.

A second question which has been debated at some length by this same subcommittee, is the permissible nonoccupational exposure, and the exposure for persons under 18 years of age.

A third question is whether or not there should be a difference in permissible exposure for pregnant women.

A last point would be a discussion on the total lifetime exposure of individuals averaged over the entire population. This is mainly a genetic question, but as you know, is one which received considerable discussion at the Stockholm meetings in September.

As indicated above, these questions have all been under study by Failla's subcommittee, and it is quite possible that he may be able to present some unified committee opinion on these questions. I know that he is planning to discuss the general problem of permissible external dose and the work of the NCRP. I bring out the particular points so that they may be possibly included in the agenda.

Yours sincerely,

ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT

*Lauriston Taylor*

Lauriston S. Taylor, Chief  
Atomic and Radiation Physics Division

20208

DOE ARCHIVES