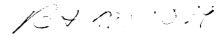


UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



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AUG 2 1 1952



Colonel B. G. Holzman
Deputy Chief of Staff
Lesearch and Development
Air Forces Special Seapons Center
Kirtland Air Force Esse
Albuquerque, New Mexico

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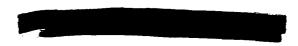
Dear Colonel Holzman:

In late 1948 the Armed Forces Special Meapons Project undertook for the Atomic Energy Commission a study to determine the physical feasibility of continental atomic tests. This study was designated "Project Mutmag." In general, the study transposed phenomena concerning atomic clouds and fallout as observed in the tropics to various continental locations. The difference in meteorology between the Mershall Islands and continental United States being one of the primary factors considered.

In connection with the current review of the use of the Newda Proving Grounds, I feel it appropriate that the assumptions and various factors, as considered in the original study, be reevaluated in light of experience gained from actual continental nuclear detonation, and that enother look be taken at other possible continental test situs to accortain if the previous conclusions are still valid. In this connection, report on Project Mutmeg, (Page 42), states:

"Conclusions: It must be concluded, therefore, after transposing the results of the Enjectok tests to a continental environment that:

- a. Tests conducted within the continent of the United States at properly engineered test sites, under proper meteorological conditions, will result in no herm to population, economy or industry.
- b. The decision to hold future tests within the continent will devolve, not upon the physical feasibility of conducting the tests without harm, but upon the elements of public relations, public opinion, logistics and security.
- c. If the absolute certainty of negligible fall-out on inhabited areas can not be accepted, there yet remain sites within the United States where absence of all-out on populated areas can be assured.



AUG : 195.

d. If second order effects of fall-out, such as those influencing biological processes of marine organisms in coastal waters, cannot be accepted, there yet remain sites within the United States, along the southeastern seaboard where the transport of radioactive material by ocean currents into fishing banks, oyster beds, salt morshes, coastal sounds and embayments may be avoided."

It is requested that you reevaluate the meteorological consideration which led to the selection of the Nevada Proving Grounds as set forth in the report on Project Nutmey. It is also requested that you compare from a meteorological standpoint the present Nevada site with other possible locations, particularly those discussed in Paragraph 7 of Part III (Page 50) of the report. In addition to the meteorological conditions considered in the Nutmey study, the evaluation should probably include the prevalence of clouds. As you are aware, cloud tracking and sampling are important elements of the test operations, and even in the relatively cloud-free southwest, we have experienced some difficulties due to cloud cover. If you do not have a copy of the Nutmey Report, Mr. Reeves of our Office of Test Operations will make a copy available to you.

Although we would appreciate having your comments as soon as possible, this request should be considered secondary to your work as a committee member as covered in the Panel "assignment" memorandum of August 10, 1953. I am requesting Dr. Machta to make a similar evaluation and suggest that possibly you and he collaborate in this project. I have requested Dr. Bugher to make an evaluation on effects of fallout, including possible effects on marine life if occurring from a location on the eastern seaboard.

Very truly yours,

Original signed by CARROLL L. TYLER

Carroll L. Tyler Manager

CC: Erig. Gen. K. E. Fields, Director DMA, AEC, Washington, D. C. Dr. J. G. Eugher: Director Div, Biologrand Medicine, AEC Washington, D. C.

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