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BMB:PBP

October 19, 1953

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Robert J. Veenstra, Major
Veterinary Corps
U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory
San Francisco 24, California

Dear Major Veenstra:

I recall at the conference in Salt Lake that you originally were of the opinion that radiation could have contributed to the death of the sheep around Cedar City. I believe that this was based largely on the radioactivity found in the thyroid glands.

Dr. Dunning has recently made calculations of the dosage to the thyroid glands, and it occurred to me that you might be interested in seeing a copy of his report. You will notice that the maximum dose from both the Nevada and Cedar City fall-out would have been between 772 and 1139 reps. This is, of course only a fraction of the dose that the Hanford office has found is required to produce detectable changes in the thyroid gland and much larger doses before observable effects can be seen in the animals.

I would very much appreciate it if you would go over Dr. Dunning's report and let me have your reaction to the validity of these data. I would also like to have an expression from you as to whether or not in view of these data you feel that radiation was a contributing factor to the death of the sheep around Cedar City. I presume that Dr. Reed has had an opportunity to make histological comparisons of the thyroid tissues of the Utah sheep with those of sheep receiving known amounts of I¹³¹ at Hanford. I would also like to know whether or not Dr. Reed felt the histological picture was essentially the same.

Sincerely yours,

MEDICINE, HEALTH & SAFETY

Paul B. Pearson
Chief, Biology Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine

PBP:meh

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Enclosure: Compilations of Radiation Dose to the

OFFICE ▶	BMB	Thyroid of Sheep Resulting from the Ingestion
SURNAME ▶	Pearson	of Iodine from Fallout during the Spring 1953 Nuclear Tests
DATE ▶	10/20/53	