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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

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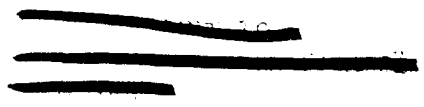
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V - BIOLOGY AND MEDICINETest Site Surveys

A resurvey of Bikini Lagoon and a survey of Eniwetok Atoll have been undertaken to determine the present state of certain forms of marine plants and animals.

Isotope Farm

A radio-biological experimental station has been established at ANS on the French Frigate Shoals. Facilities will be developed for biological synthesis of radioactive drugs and other substances. It is anticipated that a similar "farm" will be established at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Medical Claims

A panel of 10 consultants was recommended by the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine to assist the Director of Biological Services in the evaluation of claims.

Industrial Health

A joint study with the Iowa State Department of Health is being conducted at Berlin, Iowa, dealing with Beryllosis.

Training

Health Hon. Dr. F. H. C. is conducting a summer course at the Health Biological Laboratory on the application of atomic energy to biological research. Several fellowships have been provided.

Proceedings Symposium. A conference on the biological applications of nuclear physics was held at Brookhaven from July 18 - July 20, covering the utilization of tracer techniques. Attendance at the sessions of the first two weeks was limited to 50 persons, including 22 AEC-qualified scientists. In the third week, 147 scientists attended the sessions on health physics, isotope techniques, and applications of radio-carbon, radio-iodine, radio-mercury, and radio-iodine.

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MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

August 1994

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V - BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Test Site Surveys

Resurveys of the Alamogordo and Miami sites and a survey of the Eniwetok site were actively pursued and are yielding significant information about the localization of radioactive material.

Military Application of Radioactive Materials.

The panel investigating the potential military uses of radioactive material reviewed the proposed research program concerned with medical and biological aspects of the problem to be carried out at the University of Chicago Toxicity Laboratory. The panel recommended that highest priority be given to a study of the effects of external gamma radiation.

Dayton Program


The applied biophysics program at Dayton was thoroughly reviewed on August 26 and 27 by the Director of Biology and Medicine, meeting at Miamisburg, Ohio, with AEC officials from Oak Ridge and Dayton and representatives of the Monsanto Chemical Company. The discussion was focused on biological research and the detailed study of the toxic properties of plutonium.

Beryllium Hazard Control

Studies at the Brush beryllium plant in Lorain, Ohio, on the basis of a small population sample, suggest that the incidence of nonoccupational berylliosis is 1.5 per thousand as against 5.9 per thousand for occupational cases. Air samples in the vicinity of the plant indicated average beryllium concentrations at a distance of 400 feet of 0.1 micrograms per cubic meter to 0.025 micrograms at three-quarters of a mile. Plant alterations contemplated would be expected to reduce the beryllium content of gaseous effluent to a maximum neighborhood concentration of approximately 0.001 micrograms per cubic meter. In addition, a program has been recommended involving frequent and periodic examinations of employees for symptoms of the disease.

Argonne Cancer Hospital

The Argonne medical staff undertook to review the specifications of the betatron now at Oak Ridge with a view to its possible use at Chicago.



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