

REPOSITORY NARA / College Hill
COLLECTION AEC Minutes (92-006)
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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION



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MEETING NO. 564

REC'D
NND 611161
HK/RS 11-10-92
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2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 29, 1951

Present

Gordon Dean
Sumner T. Pike

M. W. Boyer
Walter J. Williams

Everett L. Hollis

Roy B. Snapp
D. G. MacDonald

Also Present


J. A. Waters, Jr.
Lindsley H. Noble
James G. Beckerley
George F. Trowbridge
Morse Salisbury
John C. Bugher
Donald H. Loughridge
Brig. Gen. James McCormack, Jr.
Malcolm C. Henderson
Joseph B. Platt
Paul W. McDaniel
Edward J. Bloch
Neil J. Carothers
George L. Weil
U. M. Staebler
Edward N. Stirewalt
J. A. Derry
Charles I. Campbell
John H. Burchard

1. Actions Taken in the Absence of a Quorum

Mr. Dean said that the present meeting, at which less than a quorum of the Commission was present, had been scheduled to allow for consideration

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6/1/90



of several matters on which early consideration was required or the guidance of the Commission sought by the staff. In the absence of a quorum (or of an emergency situation - for which provision had been made for the conduct of Commission business by less than a quorum) implementation of any decisions made at the meeting would be deferred until the concurrence of a third Commissioner had been secured.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Commission approved minutes of Meetings 554, 555, 556, and 559 held at 10:30 a.m., May 2; 2:30 p.m., May 2; May 7; and May 10, 1951, respectively and of the Fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth AEC-MLC Conferences held on April 26 and May 7, 1951, respectively.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

3. Underground Tests in the Continental United States

General McCormack advised that the site survey group headed by Dr. Shields Warren had tentatively concluded that the series of 1 KT. underground shots to be conducted by the AEC on behalf of the Department of Defense (see AEC 322/22) could be carried out safely at either the Las Vegas site or the Camp Irwin area. Steps were now under way to work out details of and staffing for the test program.

4. Proposed Assembling of Nonnuclear Weapon Components

General McCormack said that in continuing reappraisal of readiness procedures at weapons storage sites it had been found that the capacity of weapons assembly teams was insufficient to assure delivery of the increasing stockpile of atomic weapons to the Air Force as quickly as aircraft could be routed to receive them. Accordingly, it was planned to store fully assembled nonnuclear weapons components to increase military readiness in the event of sudden attack.

5. Section 10 of the Atomic Energy Act - Clearance Requirements

Mr. Hollis said he had been informed that representatives of the Federal

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Bureau of Investigation were considering with the Department of Justice possible interpretations of the Atomic Energy Act under which the Bureau might conduct investigations of AEC employee-applicants the degree of thoroughness of which would be related to sensitivity of data to which they would be required to have access.

In view of discussions held with field personnel at the recent Managers' Meeting where it had become evident that difficulties imposed by clearance requirements of the Act were not so great as to support the view that accomplishment of program objectives was being retarded, the approach now being made by the FBI might be appropriate. Such an arrangement would reduce considerably the workload of the FBI, allow for faster investigation of key personnel, and necessitate less frequent reliance on the emergency clearance device with its inherent security shortcomings.

Mr. Hollis said that he would discuss with Department of Justice representatives this alternate approach to the clearance requirement problem.

6. Foreign Travel of Sergio de Benedetti

The General Manager advised the Commission of his intention of and reasons for not accepting the recommendation of the Foreign Travel Review Board (Divisions of Security, Classification, and Military Application) that the AEC interpose objection to a European visit planned by Dr. Sergio de Benedetti, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, and family. The facts of the case as gathered by the Division of Security showed that Benedetti, who was granted a MED clearance in 1946 and a "Q" clearance in 1948, had had only limited access to restricted data, as a consultant, since leaving full-time employment in the atomic energy program in 1948. The possibility of having Benedetti's movements in Europe followed closely would be taken up with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Boyer said he was reserving judgment on a proposal, now under study by the staff, for payment by the AEC of Benedetti's travel expenses from Rome to Copenhagen, and return, to attend the international physics conference.

7. AEC 82/54 - Proposed Establishment of Position of Director, Division of Construction

After discussion, the Commission:

APPROVED the recommendation of AEC 82/54.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

8. AEC 82/55 - Establishment of Positions of Deputy Manager, Idaho Operations Office, and Assistant Manager, Chicago Operations Office.

After discussion, the Commission:

APPROVED the recommendation of AEC 82/55.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

9. AEC 82/56 - Establishment of Position of Assistant Director of Engineering, Division of Reactor Development

The General Manager recommended that the initial salary of Mr. John C. Robinson in the proposed position be set at \$11,400. After discussion, the Commission:

a. NOTED that the figure \$11,400 would be substituted for the figure \$11,200 in Item "B" of the recommendation of AEC 82/56; and

b. APPROVED the recommendation of AEC 82/56, subject to revision in accordance with a above.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

10. AEC 82/57 - Establishment of Positions of Deputy Manager, SFO, and Field Manager, Los Alamos Field Office, SFO; and Appointment of Daniel F. Worth to Position of Field Manager, Sandia Field Office

After discussion, the Commission:

APPROVED the recommendation of AEC 82/57.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

11. Redesignation of Position of Special Assistant to the Director, Division of Reactor Development

The General Manager explained that the long-range planning duties of the Special Assistant to the Director, Division of Reactor Development, had expanded in scope and complexity to the point where a redesignation of that position was appropriate. After discussion, the Commission:

a. NOTED WITH APPROVAL the redesignation of the position of Special Assistant to the Director, Division of Reactor Development, to Assistant Director (Technical), Division of Reactor Development;

b. NOTED that Dr. George L. Weil, formerly Special Assistant to the Director, Division of Reactor Development, will serve as Assistant Director (Technical) Division of Reactor Development without change in grade or salary.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

At this point Messrs. Colby and Henderson entered the meeting.

12. AEC 440 - Twenty-seven Questions and Answers About Radiation and Radiation Protection

Under consideration was a draft text on the above subject prepared by the Director of Information Services as one of the AEC leaflet series.

Mr. Dean said he understood that the subject leaflet had been prepared prior to completion of GREENHOUSE shots at which rather elaborate provision had been made for the measurement of radiation effects and he suggested that should new data be available as a result of the GREENHOUSE tests, the leaflet be revised as appropriate prior to printing for public release.

After further discussion, the Commission:

a. NOTED that the leaflet on radiation and radiation protection (Appendix "A" to AEC 440) would be revised to incorporate any new data on radiation effects which might have been obtained during Operation GREENHOUSE;

b. AUTHORIZED printing by the Government Printing Office of the leaflet (Appendix "A" to AEC 440) for public distribution, subject to possible revision in accordance with a above;

c. NOTED that, unless special considerations indicate the advisability of Commission action, future proposed leaflets for use in answering inquiries from the General Public, students and school officials, and civic and study groups will be submitted to the General Manager for approval, and upon such approval, will be circulated to the Commission for information; and

d. NOTED that the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy will be advised of this action by letter such as that in Appendix "C" to AEC 440.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

Dr. McDaniel and Dr. Platt entered the meeting during discussion of the following items.

13. AEC 438/1 - Proposed Visit to Brookhaven National Laboratory by Professor Louis Bugnard (France)

Mr. Colby and Mr. Henderson reported orally additional information requested by the Commission (at Meeting 563) regarding the source and authenticity of allegations made about Prof. Louis Bugnard of France considered in connection with his proposed unclassified visit to BNL which had the strong support of the Department of State. After further discussion, the Commission:

NOTED that arrangements would be made for Prof. Louis Bugnard, Adviser to the Atomic Energy Commission of France, to make an unclassified visit to the BNL.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

[REDACTED]

At this point Messrs. Colby, Henderson, Beckerley, Loughridge, and McDaniel left the meeting and Messrs. Bloch, Carothers, Weil, and Stabler entered.

14. AEC 43/407 - Canadian Request for 1951 Allotment of Uranium Metal

Under consideration was a report by the General Manager proposing the 1951 allotment to Canada of Uranium metal.

Mr. Pike said he felt that in view of the recent increase in the cost of Canadian ore, revision of the price of uranium metal furnished Canada by the AEC might be in order and he suggested that the matter be borne in mind as a possible topic for future discussion with Canadian representatives. After further discussion, the Commission:

APPROVED the recommendation of AEC 43/407.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

At this point Messrs. Mullenbach, Burchard, and Stirewalt entered the meeting.

15. AEC 129/31, 129/32, 129/33, and 129/34 - Progress Report to the Joint Committee

Under consideration was the draft Progress Report to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (AEC 129/31, 129/32, and 129/33) together with a draft Foreword (129/34). Specific revisions to the report and a suggested account of the MTA projects were discussed. After further discussion, the Commission:

a. APPROVED, with revisions indicated at the meeting, the Progress Report (AEC 129/31, AEC 129/32, and AEC 129/33) and Foreword (AEC 129/34) to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy; and

b. REQUESTED that the revised account of the MTA projects to be inserted in Part II of the Report be circulated to the Commissioners prior to submission of the Report to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

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(Mr. Glennan, consulted on the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)


16. Production Accelerator Project

The Commission resumed consideration of the MK. II linear accelerator project and of additional information received by letter from the California Research and Development Company (see Appendix "B" to subsequently circulated AEC 294/25).

Mr. Derry pointed out that the estimated costs of cancellation of MK. II procurement orders had increased and he commented on the estimated delay of approximately one month in the MK. I construction schedule and difficulties which might well occasion further delay to the extent that a final decision to proceed with construction of the MK. II machine could not be made until April 1, 1952. In view of these changes and in consideration of the inherent unpredictability associated with construction and prove-out of the MK. I, the staff proposed to recommend that further work be limited to continuation of research, development, design, and engineering on the MK. II and preliminary engineering work at the Weldon Spring site. Placement of procurement orders for the MK. II and other than site engineering activity at Weldon Spring would, under this proposal, be deferred pending a clearer picture of developments in the MK. I program. It was further proposed that a review of the progress of the MTA project at least every 30 days be made to enable the Commission to take advantage of any early results from experience with the MK. I and authorize MK. II procurement and further site work as appropriate.

There was discussion of the revised MK. I construction and prove-out schedules; of the nature and extent of data which would call for initiation of MK. II procurement and site activity at a later date and of the ultimate use to which the MK. II, if authorized, should be put.

There was discussion also of the status of the MK. III project on which Mr. Derry said, in answer to questions by the Commissioners, the preliminary theoretical work being done at the Radiation Laboratory represented the total effort which could be made without interference to MK. I and MK. II activities. After further discussion, the Commission:



a. NOTED that additional data discussed at the meeting with revised recommendations (subsequently circulated as AEC 294/25) as to the pace of future work on the MK. II Accelerator would be circulated for the information of the Commission; and

b. NOTED that further consideration by the Commission of the accelerated program would be scheduled for an early meeting.

(Mr. Glennan, consulted the following day, advised of his concurrence in the above action.)

Roy B. Snapp
Secretary

Approved by the Commission: June 20, 1951