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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 1069

2:15 p.m., Wednesday, March 23, 1955

REPOSITORY NARA-College Park \* \* \* \* \*

COLLECTION AEC MEETING MINUTE

BOX No. 8 (NA3-92-006)

FOLDER Meetings 1051-1073 Present

Lewis L. Strauss  
 Thomas E. Murray  
 W. F. Libby

W. B. McCool  
 John H. Stumpf

K. D. Nichols  
 R. W. Cook  
 William Mitchell

Also Present

A. Tammaro  
 Harry S. Traynor  
 Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields  
 Col. John J. Dishuck  
 Leonard M. Brenner  
 John A. Derry  
 Morse Salisbury  
 C. D. W. Thornton  
 E. J. Bloch  
 Oscar S. Smith  
 Don S. Burrows  
 Francis J. McCarthy  
 John H. Burchard  
 Richard G. Hewlett  
 James A. Miller  
 T. H. Johnson  
 Paul W. McDaniel

D. R. Miller  
 Howard C. Brown, Jr.  
 J. C. Robinson  
 Charles D. Luke  
 C. L. Marshall  
 John A. Hall  
 Edward R. Gardner  
 John P. Trevithick  
 C. A. Rolander, Jr.  
 Jesse Johnson  
 George L. Weil  
 George G. Manov  
 A. A. Wells  
 McKay Donkin  
 John Mackenzie, Jr.  
 Comdr. John W. Crawford  
 William L. Oakley

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*Per authorization  
at beginning of  
minute # 1069  
3/23/55*

1. Monthly Report

a. Production

Mr. Bloch reported on the progress of construction of production facilities.

With regard to the problem of U-232 contamination in U-233, he said that a staff paper is being prepared which will review the problems in U-233 production which have been encountered thus far. (See AEC 706/11, subsequently circulated.) He observed, however, that these problems might result in a delay of perhaps a year in achieving U-233 production.

Mr. Libby observed that the emergence of the U-232 contamination problem suggests that the development of the centrifuge process of isotopes separation should be accelerated and emphasizes the importance of the homogeneous reactor whose continuous fuel processing system would largely eliminate contamination. General Fields said that new developments in DOD thinking on thermonuclear weapons might result in less stringent requirements for low g/t plutonium, with a consequent decrease in the urgency of the U-233 program.

At this point the Chairman entered the meeting.

Mr. Bloch then reported on production rates of fissionable material for February.

b. Military Application

General Fields reported on the progress of Operation TEAPOT. With regard to planning for future test operations he said it now appears that the staff will recommend that Operation DIXIE be combined with Operation REDWING, to be held in the Pacific during the spring of 1956.

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d. Research

Mr. D. R. Miller reported on research projects in high-temperature chemistry which are supported by the AEC and discussed with the Commission means of further developing this program.

e. Biology and Medicine

Mr. Brown reviewed proposals for revising and expanding AEC programs in Japan, and for assisting Japanese atomic energy projects. (See minutes of Meeting 1066.) The Chairman informed Mr. Brown of the OCB position that Hiroshima or Nagasaki would not be appropriate sites for a medical research reactor but that other sites might be acceptable.\*

Mr. Brown then reported on the progress of Project TROLL and outlined proposals which the Commission may later be asked to consider for a public release on the Project and for declassification of some of its data to permit unclassified discussion with Japanese scientists in the near future. The Commissioners expressed interest in examining analyses of the Project TROLL data. He also informed the Commission that the Division would later propose U. S. collaboration with Japanese scientists in Project NORPAC, a radiological survey to be conducted in the North Pacific later in the year.

At this point the Chairman and Mr. Brown left the meeting.

f. Organization and Personnel

Mr. Smith reported briefly on aspects of the Organization and Personnel program.

At this point Mr. Smith left the meeting and Messrs. Gardner and Trevithick entered.

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\*See memorandum from Paul F. Foster on this subject, dated March 16, 1955, on file in the Office of the Secretary.