

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 748

2:30 p.m., Friday, September 12, 1952

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Present

Gordon Dean Henry D. Smyth Eugene M. Zuckert

M. W. Boyer Walter J. Williams Everett L. Hollis Harold L. Price

Roy B. Snapp Charles A. Perry Also Present

Richard W. Cook Capt. John T. Hayward, USN

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FOLDER Vol 10 - CM 736-794	

1. Selection of Operating Contractor for Portsmouth

Mr. Boyer referred to the questions raised by the Commission at Meeting 742 when the selection of the operating contractor for Portsmouth was previously discussed. The staff had solicited the opinion of the Justice Department on the firms under consideration and had obtained comments from the RFC and Army Ordnance on their cost experience with these firms. In addition, in speaking with several associates Mr. Boyer had learned that although there was no dominant group controlling Goodyear, Mr. Litchfield was the leading power in the company. He had also learned that, although compartmentalization was still rather pronounced in Allied Chemical and Dye, the situation was improving and the management was attempting to integrate the activities of the various subsidiaries and divisions. Apparently there was no dominant interest group controlling Allied either.

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2. Kaiser Subcontract with Foothills Electric Company

As noted on fust pacy of CM 748, 1/17/52

Mr. Boyer stated that Henry Kaiser was proposing to subcontract the electrical work on the Jumbo reactor to the Foothills Electric Company, one of its subsidiaries, on a no-fee basis. AEC was currently being flooded with correspondence from the National Electrical Contractors Association citing unfairness in this matter. Although Kaiser has agreed not to have a fee for this subcontract, the Commission will still encounter considerable criticism by allowing this action.

The Commissioners discussed with the General Manager the relationship of cases such as this to the Commission policy of distributing work among small contractors whenever feasible.

At this point Capt. Hayward entered the meeting and Mr. Cook left.

3. Use of Bikini in Operation CASTLE

Captain Hayward read a proposed telegram to SFOO regarding the use of Bikini in Operation CASTLE. It was decided that the Commission action on this matter at Meeting 746 should be broadened. After further discussion the Commission:

a. APPROVED the use of Bikini for Operation CASTLE on the basis of miniumum possible expenditure in the Fiscal Year 1953;

b. AUTHORIZED proceeding with the beachhead operations proposed by Holmes & Narver in their report of August 1, 1952;

c. NOTED that there would be no permanent construction at Bikini and that the maximum possible use will be made of temporary and portable equipment; and

d. NOTED that the appropriate authorities in the Department of the Interior and the Military Liaison Committee will be notified of this action by an appropriate letter.

> Roy B. Snapp Secretary

Approved by the Commission: October 15, 1952

- 480 -