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Meeting 550 - April 25, 1951

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(1) The Commission heard current activities reports and cleared (2) Senator Lester C. Hunt, Armed Services Committee, and (3) Representative Norris Cotton, Appropriations Committee, as observers at Operation GREENHOUSE.

(4) The Commission noted with approval selection of the National Lead Company as operating contractor for the Feed Materials Production Center at a fee of \$100,000 as compared to the \$1,350,000 fee proposed by the Mallinkrodt Company which had also been considered.

(5) Mr. Hafstad reported that completion of the Arco Chemical Processing Plant was expected to be delayed about three months beyond the earlier estimated October 1, 1951 date. No serious effect on the processing of materials was expected to result in view of the recent revision of the tritium production schedule.

(6) Continuing interest on the part of the Commonwealth Edison Company and the Bechtel Corp.-Pacific Gas & Electric Co. group in undertaking "industrial uses" studies similar to those planned by Monsanto and Dow and a cut-off date to the Commission's general invitation to industry to undertake such studies were discussed.

(7) After an oral report on a planned joint AEC-AFSWP large-scale test of the operational suitability of procedures for the use of atomic weapons (which would involve only non-nuclear components) the Commission requested information on AEC responsibility for and financial support of past joint undertakings which might serve as a guide to formulate Commission policy regarding future joint projects.

(8) Circumstances surrounding publication of the Look Magazine article were described.

(9) Mr. Pike related the substance of his conversation with George Bateman, Canadian Member of the CDA, whom he had assured the Commission had no desire to act unilaterally in the financing of Canadian mines.

(10) Memoranda (AEC 395/4) sent the U.S. AEC Liaison Officer at Chalk River advising of Commission acceptance of the Canadian indemnification proposal were noted with approval.

(11) Classified discussions with Canadian and UK officials regarding international distribution of radio-isotopes under the Technical Cooperation program were approved (AEC 43/388).

(12) The visit by Dr. C. A. Rennie (U.K.) for classified discussions in the reactor field at Oak Ridge (AEC 43/386) was approved and the Commission discussed a letter from Mr. C.E. Steel of the British Embassy expressing disappointment at the Commission's inability to arrange also for a classified visit to Brookhaven which he felt both the "spirit and letter" of the Technical Cooperation Program would allow.

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subject to revision so as not to imply commitment of the Commission regarding continuation of AEC support for the ABCC beyond fiscal year 1952. (See AEC 156/30)

(14) The Commission approved a letter to the MLC advising of the Commission's position with respect to the proposed naval aircraft carrier project and its intention of engaging a group to study possible modifications to current reactor development projects which might facilitate later development of an aircraft carrier propulsion unit. Selection of the study group would be made within 60 days. (AEC 17/30).

(15) Construction of additional facilities and buildings at the Westinghouse Bettis Field plant at a cost of \$1.9 million was approved. (AEC 429)

(16) The Commission deferred action on the Sporn Committee report (AEC 184/22 and 184/23) and a memorandum dated April 18, 1951, by Mr. Glennan proposing establishment of an AEC Office of Industrial Cooperation for the handling of AEC's non-contractual relations with industry.

Meeting 551 - 1951

(1) A proposed amendment to Section 5(a)(3)(C) of the Atomic Energy Act which would grant the Commission discretionary authority in cases involving the participation of U.S. citizens in the production of fissionable materials abroad was approved. (AEC 376/15)

(2) Development of the Las Vegas Test Site at an estimated cost of \$8.6 million was approved. (AEC 141/10)

(3) The draft AEC position on relations with the U.K. was discussed with attention given chiefly to general advantages ^{which} could be expected to accrue to the U.S. under a more intergrated U.S.-U.K. program.

Meeting 552 - April 26, 1951 (Mr. Dean present)

(1) The Commission agreed that the fourth (Booster) shot should be fired unless the Los Alamos Technical Laboratory for technical reasons decided to recommend to the contrary and (2) discussed the proposal of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (AEC 322/21) that the AEC assume responsibility for conduct of 1 kt. underground and surface shots in the continental U.S.

57th AEC-MLC Conference (Mr. Dean present)

(1) The Committee was informed of the Commission's thinking with respect to firing of the fourth (Booster) shot at GREENHOUSE.

(2) The Department of Defense's preference that the AEC undertake the continental 1 kt. underground and surface tests was discussed.

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(3) The Committee was advised of recent developments in the raw materials program and (4) difficulties publication of the Look Magazine article had caused the Commission.

Meeting 553 - April 30, 1951

(1) After further consideration of the JCS proposal the Commission agreed to undertake with adequate military assistance small-scale tests in the continental U.S. if delay of the tests until about January 1, 1952 were satisfactory to the Department of Defense and if radiological hazards were found to be within acceptable limits.

Meeting 554 - May 2, 1951

(1) The Commission approved minutes of Meeting 546; (2) considered the schedule of discussions set for the forthcoming Managers' Meeting; (3) was informed that the agreement with the Dow Chemical - Detroit Edison group had been signed; and (4) was advised of the establishment of the San Francisco Area Office to administer the MTA projects pending establishment of the permanent Weldon Springs Area Office.

(5) No progress in ascertaining the cause of the missing plutonium at Los Alamos was reported.

(6) The Commission discussed the apparent loss of four MC-1 transmitter tubes from Sandia base which might warrant re-setting of the frequencies of stock-pile tubes. (AEC 213/52)

(7) The Commission heard current activities reports; (8) authorized additional personnel for classified discussions with Dr. C.A. Rennie (U.K.) at Oak Ridge; (9) noted for the minutes the Commission's approval of procedures with respect to Presidential decision concerning the use of atomic weapons (AEC 433); (10) discussed topics proposed for consideration at the forthcoming GAC meeting; and (11) was advised of the likelihood that the proposed atomic test for civil defense purposes would probably have to be held at Camp Irwin.

(12) The Commission approved construction of a new research reactor (CP-5) at Argonne at a cost of \$2.175 million (already included in the FY 1951 budget - AEC 431).

(13) Acquisition of some 6100 acres of privately owned land at Paducah by negotiated purchase or condemnation was approved. (AEC 372/13)

(14) The General Manager discussed a plan to engage an architect-engineering firm to conduct a study of the categories of structures needed at AEC installations with a view toward the establishment of program-wide building standards.

(1) The Commission discussed the position of the Defense establishment and of AEC reference to relations with the U.K.

58th AEC-MLC Conference

(1) The Department of Defense study on relations with the U.K. and the views tentatively developed by the Commission were discussed. It was agreed that members of the staff of the Commission and the Committee would draw up a list of areas and topics and identify the extent to which cooperation in each such area or topic appeared to be in the interest of the U.S.

Meeting 557 - May 9, 1951

(1) The Commission heard current activities reports; (2) requested a paper on possible lines of development of a plutonium power breeder and the likely impact a maximum effort to develop such a breeder might have on the program as a whole; (3) approved a visit by U.K. personnel to several U.S. AEC installations (AEC 43/393); (4) approved a letter to the MLC concurring in a proposed organization for military participation in future atomic tests subject to certain understandings (AEC 334/7); (5) approved a letter to Governor Caldwell setting forth the Commission's willingness to assist in a civil defense test during the fall of 1951 at Camp Irwin (AEC 432/1); and (6) approved extension of the loan of 9,000 lbs of heavy water to Canada (AEC 254/7).

(7) The Commission heard a report on negotiation of a loan instrument to finance the construction of uranium production facilities in South Africa. A document acceptable to both the South Africans and staff of the AEC and the Export-Import Bank was drafted. Final action by the Commission to guarantee the loans ~~were~~ ^{wil. be} sought in about two months.

Meeting 558 - May 10, 1951

Drs. Alvarez and Thornton of U.C. Radiation Laboratory, and Messrs. Cope and Kent of California Research and Development, reported on the MTA project.

Discussion of the mix project generally, and additional information and estimates, particularly on alternate schedules and on comparison with breeders, high-cost ore sources, etc.

