

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 863

10:30 a.m., Monday, May 18, 1953

Present

Gordon Dean
Henry D. Smyth
Eugene M. Zuckert

M. W. Boyer
Walter J. Williams

William Mitchell
Harold L. Price

Roy B. Snapp
John H. Stumpf

Also Present

John C. Bugher
Don S. Burrows
Comdr. James M. Dunford
Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields
Francis J. McCarthy
Philip Mullenbach
Morse Salisbury
Col. Vincent G. Huston
Lt. Col. Raymond P. Campbell
Alvin C. Graves

1. AEC 487/55 - Proposed Additional Shot for UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE Series

General Fields discussed with the Commissioners the basis for the proposal that an additional shot be included in the UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE series. He described the device to be tested and he and Mr. Graves commented on the significance of this test for future operations and for the program of weapon development. Since no similar device had ever been tested, estimates of the yield were somewhat uncertain; however, yield would probably be

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Mr. Dean said he was concerned that so large a detonation might produce serious shock in nearby communities or that it might cause severe fall-out or rain-out on more distant localities. Mr. Graves

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W. J. Stumpf, OC, 4/14/79
BY W. J. Stumpf DATE 4/14/79

said that since this would be the last test of the series, it would be possible to select the weather conditions with great care. By this means severe shock damage or excessive fall-out could be avoided. He pointed out, moreover, that this test called for an airplane drop and a detonation at 1,000 to 1,300 feet, not a tower shot, and this would be a significant factor in keeping fall-out to the minimum. He then discussed with the Commissioners such matters as the accuracy of local and general weather predictions as they affect test schedules and the possibility of delayed detonation due to fuze failure or other factors.

Mr. Dean asked whether it was considered necessary to make a public announcement concerning the unusually high yield of the device to be tested. Mr. Graves and General Fields said that they considered it unnecessary to go beyond the information contained in the draft press release on this subject. (Appendix "B" to AEC 487/55). Mr. Graves pointed out that the greater power of this device would probably not be noticed by persons in nearby communities.

The Commissioners indicated that their approval of the additional test would be based on the assumption that the greatest care would be taken to minimize the effects of the detonation.

The Commission:

APPROVED the recommendation of AEC 487/55.

At this point General Fields, Dr. Bugher, Colonels Huston and Campbell and Mr. Graves left the meeting and Messrs. Burrows, McCarthy and Mullenbach entered.

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Roy B. Snapp
Secretary

Approved by the Commission: June 25, 1953