

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 877

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 17, 1953

Present

Gordon Dean
Henry D. Smyth
Thomas E. Murray
Eugene M. Zuckert

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

Harold D. Anamosa
John H. Stumpf

Also Present

John A. Waters
Francis R. Hammack
McKay Donkin
Morse Salisbury
E. R. Trapnell
Oscar S. Smith
George F. Trowbridge
Richard W. Cook
William L. Davidson
Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields
Dr. John C. Bugher
James G. Beckerley
James K. Pickard
Stuart McLain
George W. Phillips
J. Robert Barlow

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CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
OR CHANGED TO Unclassified
BY AUTHORITY OF 711 412 0000, 0
BY Betty W. H. DATE 4/14/79 4/14/

2. Effect of Atomic Tests on the Weather (See minutes of Meetings 869 and 875)

Mr. Smyth said that a series of resolutions had been introduced by Representative Rogers of Massachusetts requesting the AEC and a

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number of other agencies to provide information concerning the possible effects of atomic tests on the weather. Senator Langer had also offered a Resolution to the effect that no further atomic tests be held in the continental U.S. This Resolution had been referred to the Joint Committee. The Commissioners discussed with members of the staff preliminary results of the study of weather information and the survey of authoritative groups suggested by the Commission at Meeting 875.

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8. Discussion of Fall-out from UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE Series and
Further Discussion of Effects of Atomic Tests on the Weather
(See Item 2 above)

General Fields commented upon the progress of investigations to determine the cause of the injury and death of animals in areas close to the proving grounds. The Commissioners discussed with him and Dr. Bugher the preliminary results of these investigations and indicated that the effort to obtain conclusive information should be considered a matter of urgency. Mr. Dean said it was desirable that specialists from the agricultural colleges of the region take an important part in these investigations. General Fields described present participation by local specialists.

In response to questions by Mr. Zuckert, Dr. Bugher said that it is the opinion of the investigators that the deaths of a number of sheep which had been grazing near the proving grounds at the time of the second shot had not been caused by radiation; however, since the animals might have suffered some radiation injury it is possible that this was a contributing factor in their deaths. He emphasized that firm conclusions on this question would not be available until exhaustive examinations of the animals had been carried out. It would not be enough to say that they had not died of radiation; it was necessary to be able to say with authority precisely what the causes of death had been.

Mr. Salisbury outlined plans for dealing with the public information aspects of the fall-out problem. As information concerning the animals is acquired it will promptly be made available to the inhabitants of the areas which had been affected. For the July report to the Congress, the Division of Biology and Medicine would prepare a section containing all significant information on the fall-out question available by that time. Shortly before the release of the report, a meeting in St. George's, Utah, would be arranged for the purpose of informing the residents of these data and interpreting them. The Chairman emphasized that this information should be readily comprehensible to the public and directly related to their experiences. Mr. Smyth suggested that reference to units of radiation intensity be kept as simple as possible.

Mr. Salisbury said that a film which had previously been prepared but not released would be re-cast by the Lookout Mountain Laboratory to apply specifically to the fall-out question. Additional footage would be shot in the St. Georges area and a new script would be prepared. The Commissioners said that they wished to see the finished script or a preliminary outline of it as it is completed. Mr. Salisbury added that the film had been mentioned to Representative Stringfellow of Utah and that he had thought the idea a good one and had suggested that the film's premier be held in St. Georges.

General Fields said that when the data from special studies now in progress have been assimilated, in about a month's time, an ad hoc group would be established to make recommendations concerning the future use of the site, the nature of future tests and related matters.

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Harold D. Anamosa
Acting Secretary

Approved by the Commission: July 10, 1953