

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 888

2:15 p.m., Wednesday, July 15, 1953

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Present

Lewis L. Strauss
Henry D. Smyth
Thomas E. Murray
Eugene M. Zuckert

M. W. Boyer
Walter J. Williams
William Mitchell

Roy B. Snapp
Harold D. Anamosa
John H. Stumpf

Also Present

Neil J. Carothers
Carroll A. Towne
Arthur B. Dunham
T. H. Johnson
Jesse C. Johnson
John A. Hall
John A. Waters
Oscar S. Smith
Don S. Burrows
Dr. John C. Bugher
Morse Salisbury
Brig. Gen. K. E. Fields
Paul C. Fine
James G. Beckerley
E. R. Trapnell
Walter F. Colby
Philip Mullenbach
Lawrence R. Hafstad
Robert P. Petersen
Ernest O. Lawrence (U.C.R.L.)
John J. Flaherty, (Mgr., SAN)
Gerard Smith
John Mackenzie

DELETED

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED

~~RESTRICTED TO~~
BY AUTHORITY OF L. H. Saltonstall
BY Archer DATE 9/14/75

2. Interim Report on Animals Allegedly Injured by Fall-out

Dr. Bugher reported on information obtained to date concerning injury to animals which is alleged to have been caused by fall-out from the UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE test detonations. It had been quite clearly established that a number of horses had been injured by beta radiation, and the liability of the AEC was probable. It had been recommended that the Manager, SFOO, initiate negotiations to settle the claim or claims arising from these injuries. The Commissioners discussed with Dr. Bugher and Mr. Mitchell the question whether the Commission had the authority to settle this claim without specific Congressional authorization.

Dr. Bugher said it had also been claimed that a number of cattle had died as a result of radiation injury; however, preliminary reports indicated that radiation had not been a factor in this case. Concerning a number of sheep which had allegedly died from radiation injury the situation was not so clear. Probably their deaths had resulted from the ingestion of toxic plants; however, since they had apparently also suffered some radiation injury, studies would be continued to determine whether or to what extent this had been a factor in their deaths.

General Fields commented on the progress of a study which will result in recommendations concerning the future use of the Nevada Proving Grounds (see minutes of Meeting 877). Mr. Strauss said that in order to anticipate a situation which might quickly arise, it was desirable to have available a statement concerning the general policies and considerations which govern operations at the Nevada site. He discussed with various members of the staff the material which might be included in such a statement.

DELETED

Roy B. Snapp
Secretary

Approved by the Commission: August 20, 1953