

For the Record

September 2, 1965

Judson Hardy

Meeting of PHS-AEC representatives re Utah study

On Wednesday, 9/1/65, Dr. Bing, Science Adviser's Office, called to ask "What would be the Federal Government's liability for any clinical effects, possibly due to radiation, which might be discovered in the Utah dental-eye-thyroid study." After considerable discussion then and later with Dr. Chadwick it was agreed that a meeting of PHS-AEC representatives, including our attorneys should be held next day.

On Thursday, Dr. Chadwick and I met with 3 NEW lawyers, Dr. Dunham, Gordon Dunning and Dwight Ink from AEC, Asst. Surgeon General Pond and Dr. Bing. Ink said the Commissioners wanted to suggest certain changes in the release, and were quite concerned about the present version of the report on leukemia which had just been brought to their attention.

Dunning attacked the scientific validity of the leukemia paper, and the choice of Safford, Arizona, rather than another Utah community, as the control population for the current study.

Bing first questioned the adequacy of communication between AEC and DHEI, and then, on the evidence presented by Chadwick of frequent communication with Dunham, withdrew the question. It became evident that the communication failure was within AEC, although this was not stated.

Conclusions reached:

1. PHS-Utah State Health Department had already made adequate provision for the medical-dental follow up if this is limited to a very few cases, which is the most likely situation. A large number of such cases, or suits against the Government would be handled on a case-by-case basis.
2. AEC would suggest word changes in the news release and the leukemia paper.
3. DHEI would provide AEC with any available data on leukemia rates of other small population groups comparable to the 2 counties covered in the leukemia study.

cc:
Dr. Chadwick
Mr. Nelson

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