

Honorable Luther L. Terry
Surgeon General
~~U. S. Public Health Service~~
Department of Health, Education
and Welfare

SEP 10 1965

Dear Dr. Terry:

This is by way of follow-up on the meeting of September 2, 1965 between Mr. Ink, Dr. Dunham and Dr. Dunning of our staff with Allen M. Pond, Dr. Chadwick and others from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and representatives of the Office of Science and Technology and the Federal Radiation Council.

The meeting concerned a draft report entitled "Leukemia Mortality in Southwestern Utah" by Mr. Edward Weiss, a proposed study "Environmental and Genetic Factors in the Oral Dental and Medical Characteristics of Utah School Children" and a draft press release on these studies. We appreciate very much having had the opportunity to review these documents along with the proposal for the extension of the studies.

As to the Weiss draft report, you will note that as indicated by the Atomic Energy Commission staff comments, we have a number of problems with it. We hope that in its review of the document the Public Health Service will bring to bear all the broad experiences in epidemiology of its National Institutes of Health and its Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta. The attached comments by AEC staff scientists are offered for your consideration. As was agreed at the meeting, the Commission would appreciate learning the degree of variance among groups of 20,000 children, in small population groups, around the country in relation to the national average. These data might assist in placing the Utah statistics in perspective.

We wish to assure you that, as in the past, we are in favor of epidemiologic studies in Southern Utah, and the AEC wishes to cooperate fully in any effort that will clarify the effect or noneffect of radiation exposure from fallout. You will note by our staff comments (attached), however, that there are rather serious reservations in their minds that the proposed studies will produce unequivocal data. At this point in time it is not clear that a proposal of

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modification of the study would be fruitful. We do urge that the investigators exercise due caution in placing the study in proper perspective when presenting it to the public.

Mr. Duncan Clark and Mr. Judson Hardy of our respective staffs are currently working on the wording of the press release attempting to minimize unwarranted concern among the school children and their parents.

Sincerely yours,

s/ D. A. Ink

Asst. General Manager

Attachments:

1. AEC Comments on "Environmental & Genetic Factors, etc."
2. AEC Comments on "Leukemia Mortality, etc."

cc: Hon. Donald P. Hornig
Office of Science and Technology
Paul C. Tompkins, Exec. Dir.
Federal Radiation Council