



NATIONAL PLUTONIUM REGISTRY

July 9, 1969

ANNUAL REPORT

In August 1968 the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission authorized and funded a program to establish and operate the National Plutonium Registry (Hanford Schedule 189, 06 Biology and Medicine). The program is administered by the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation with the cooperation of Battelle Northwest. The scope, objectives and functions are detailed in the Hanford Schedule 189 and in the Reference Data and Policy Guide operating procedures published in December 1968, both referenced documents on file and pertinent portions available from the Registry:

With the concurrence of the Commission, an Advisory Committee was established to aid in the formation of long-range policies. The Committee, whose members are R. D. Evans, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Lloyd M. Joshel, Ph.D., Dow Chemical Company; C. C. Lushbaugh, M.D., Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Inc.; Thomas F. Mancuso, M.D., University of Pittsburgh; H. M. Parker, Battelle Northwest; and James H. Sterner, M.D., University of Texas, met on October 30, 1968, in Richland.

The results of this meeting have been published and given fairly wide distribution, and are also a matter of record and copies are available upon request. Announcements of the Registry's formation were widely publicized and were included in national and local newspapers, local and foreign professional journals, and by letters from the Commission (Dr. H. D. Bruner) and the Registry to AEC contractors and licensee installations where exposure potentials exist.

To introduce the program and to solicit constructive criticisms the following installations were visited: Rocky Flats, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, Savannah River, Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Plutonium Fuels Development Laboratory, Monsanto Research Corporation's Mound Laboratory and Nuclear Materials & Equipment Corporation. Additionally, laboratories doing research in the medical and health physics aspects of the transuranic elements were visited. While support for Registry activities appears excellent, visits to major contractors revealed two reservations regarding the immediate endorsement of the program. These were: (1) the lack of a specific directive from the next higher echelon of authority, and (2) the unknown impact on employee labor relations which might develop as a result of the implementation of the program. The matter was referred to Headquarters AEC for resolution and specific clearances by legal, biology and medical, operational safety and labor relations divisions. Following this,

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instructions were received to go ahead and implement the program at Hanford and if no unexpected complications develop, to extend the program nationwide.

Accordingly, for Hanford use, forms were devised, procedures outlined, desired medical and health physics data specified, proper releases for data, autopsy permits, and related documents were devised, past and present plutonium workers identified, and the concurrence of all contractors for the initiation of the program was obtained.

The Hanford physicians at the time of the employees' periodic medical examinations will request plutonium workers to sign a release to the Registry of the medical and radiation exposure information, and also authorization for autopsies. The Registry will enter into a contract to provide the spouse or next of kin \$500.00 for those employees who authorize an autopsy and on whom the appropriate samples are obtained for examination and analysis.

A library for assembling the latest information on medical and health physics aspects of the transuranic elements has been established and the cooperation and support of the AEC Division of Technical Information Extension at Oak Ridge has been solicited. The information on record is being computerized for ease of retrieval and will be available upon request by anyone having a need for such data.

The Registry has also made provisions for the receipt of information by telephone at any time of the day or night. This is for the use primarily of employees under contract to the Registry for autopsy tissue sampling; however, it may be used by anyone who has an urgent need to communicate with the Registry. The number is: Area Code 509, 942-1111, ext. 6-4373, and collect calls will be accepted.

The Registry has gradually increased personnel to the equivalent of three people at year's end. The actual implementation and therefore the collection of data at Hanford will greatly increase with the introduction of the program in the first several weeks in July. Following the introductory phase of the Hanford program, an outline of the methods used and observations as to how alternate methods could be used for obtaining medical and health physics data for the Registry, together with sample forms, will be distributed to contractors and licensees for their suggestions and/or modification to suit their particular needs.

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