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STAFF REVIEW OF MANCUSO, STEWART, KNEALE PAPER

Enclosed for your information is a memorandum of November 16, 1976, reporting the conclusions of a technical review by staff from SD, RES, and EDO of the recent paper by Mancuso, et al. The paper describes an analysis of the causes of mortality of former workers at Hanford Laboratory.

The Office of Standards Development has reviewed the staff report. We agree with the staff reviewers' conclusions that the paper by Mancuso, et al, does not warrant regulatory action at this time to change either the dose limiting regulations of 10 CFR or the methods of analysis of radiation effects now in use by NRC staff. There is continued assurance that activities licensed in accord with the current regulations provide protection of the health and safety of the public and radiation workers.

I am asking the Office of Public Affairs to consider preparation of a press announcement describing the conclusions of this NRC staff review. Such an announcement may be warranted as follow-up on the press interest and coverage of the Mancuso report in late October.

Dr. Michael Parsont of SD coordinated the staff review of the Mancuso report. He is available to aid your staff representatives in preparation for hearing or other activities where the report is likely to be a contested issue.

Further actions in this field which should be considered are:

- A. The data from the AEC Health and Mortality Study should be carefully analyzed to determine whether or not there are any discernible radiological health effects in employees of nuclear power plants and other installations handling radioactive materials. This is of the highest priority.

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- B. Any other pertinent data in addition to those of the AEC Health and Mortality Study should also be analyzed to amplify the above analysis.
- C. If possible, establish from the analysis of these data, estimates of risks of radiation exposure resulting from licensed operations under present radiation protection standards.
- D. Establish an ongoing HRC program in radiation epidemiology for the purposes given above which also can serve as a resource for responding to questions on the etiology of radiological effects.
- E. Consideration should be given to the possible need for epidemiological study of workers employed in HRC licensed activities.

I will be speaking with the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research within the next few weeks to initiate formulation of a plan of action for HRC efforts along these lines.

Robert B. Minogue, Director
Office of Standards Development

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Lee V. Gossick, EDO
Chairman Rowden
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Commissioner Gilinsky
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