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Paul W. Spain, Field Manager, Eniwetok Field Office, SFOO
T. L. Shipman, M. D., H-Div. Leader, LASL

March 10, 1953

REPOSITORY LOS ALAMOS NAT LAB
COLLECTION TR
BOX No TR 5787
FOLDER Pacific Proving Ground General

RAD SAFE SERVICE AT PROVING GROUNDS

H

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The attached memo from Leo Chalin gives certain specific recommendations concerning rad safe matters at Eniwetok. To his recommendations I would like to add a few comments of my own.

It would appear as a result of recent happenings both at Eniwetok and in Nevada that we are now faced with an altered set of conditions which will have a significant effect on many types of construction work. In the past there has been comparatively little need to worry about the effect of contamination in construction areas. For the foreseeable future it would appear that practically all construction activities in target areas will be affected by contamination remaining from previous tests. The honeymoon seems to be over. This fact has already been recognized by SFOO, as indicated by the recent appointment of John Newell to a position of responsibility in this field. If we consider the problems at both proving grounds, however, it is obvious that one man by himself can do but little. It seems obvious that the Pacific Proving Ground must henceforth have what amounts to a full-time and permanent rad safe organization, with personnel based on Parry adequately trained to solve the majority of the problems which may arise. The proposed formation of Task Group 7.5 may provide the necessary framework for such work at the PPG. It would be my impression that John Newell should have a deputy who would at the same time serve as the rad safe officer for TG 7.5. This man should have under him the necessary staff to carry out film badge dosimetry, to provide at least routine maintenance and servicing of instruments, and an adequate number of monitors. The load of work on such a group will, of course, be varied, and there may be some opportunity to shift personnel back and forth between Eniwetok and Nevada. There is certainly no reason why the rad safe officer for TG 7.5 should not continue to function as such during the test period with the responsibility for AEC and H & N personnel, just as the rad safe officers for other task groups carry out their functions.

I think it goes without saying that NPG must receive rather similar treatment, although it would appear that some personnel could be used at both sites.

H Division, of LASL, simply is not in a position to supply personnel for this work except on an emergency short-term basis. I believe, however, that we can furnish you with material assistance in the training and indoctrination of those who will be employed in this work.

There are perhaps two alternatives, as I see it, to the above plan. One of these is to insist to the military that the various test operations start early and end late and that the regular rad safe organization must continue to function during interim periods. I doubt if this proposal would be readily accepted by

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the military. The other alternative is to insist that Holmes and Narver and Reynolds Electric Company as prime contractors must provide the necessary safeguards. Whatever method is followed, I feel it is plain that the time has come when the over-all problem must be met with a far bolder conception than has been the case in the past. Please feel free to count on us for any assistance in our power.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.

THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.
Health Division Leader

TLS:plw

cc Paul W. Spain (3)
Alvin Graves
Duncan Curry

Enc. Leo Chelius' memo to Spain dtd 10 March 1953

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