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RAD-SAFE REQUIREMENTS FOR PACIFIC PROVING GROUNDS

H-1

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As a result of observations during a recent trip to the Pacific Proving Ground, we believe that the following are prime requisites in order to furnish adequate radiation protection to personnel at that site.

1. Establishment of a working film badge dosimetry section.
2. Additional support for the repair and maintenance of radiation detection instruments.
3. Establishment of a semi-permanent Rad-Safe organization for PFG in order that there will be adequate continuity between operational and inter-operational periods.

In order to achieve the first objective, it will be necessary to give adequate training in film badge dosimetry to at least one person. This training would require from three to four weeks initially, but could probably be given either at LANL or overseas. An individual already well trained in this field should be sent to Eniwetok to assist in starting up the existing darkroom equipment and to insure that the program is started satisfactorily. The darkroom equipment appeared to be in good shape and there are adequate film badges of the military type to get started. A densitometer and a radium source for calibration purposes would appear to be the only additional equipment required. A radium source of approximately 200 mcs would probably be sufficient.

Item number two could probably be most easily achieved by giving the radiation monitors who are sent to Eniwetok more comprehensive training in field repairing of survey instruments and pocket dosimeters. There seem to be adequate test instruments and tools to accomplish minor repairs on survey instruments. It will be necessary to procure tools for repairing the pocket dosimeters. In addition to the minor repairs which may be done in the field, it will be necessary to make arrangements whereby major repairs may be made more expeditiously in a fully equipped instrument shop.

The present monitoring at the PFG is being done by AEC Security personnel who have minimal training in Health Physics. The writer does not wish to belittle the efforts of these people since they are doing an excellent job considering the limited training which they have received. However, it is believed that they not only should receive more on the job training, but that they should be rotated in order that the test program may make greatest use of the experience which they have received during previous tours of duty.

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There is another point which should be brought up at this time. The stepped-up test program and continued use of real estate contaminated in previous tests is going to require much closer liaison between the test groups, the construction and engineering groups and the rad-safe organization. In order to be of optimum service in the over-all program, the rad-safe group should not only be familiar with the present operations but also future plans insofar as is feasible.

Since the program at PFO is so fluid, it is difficult to recommend an organization which would be adequate for all contingencies. However, it would appear that a minimum requirement would be for one supervisory rad-safe officer, one person trained in film badge dosimetry, and at least two rad-safe monitors.

The H-1 Group of LANL will of course assist in any way possible in the training of required personnel and in the initiation of the rad-safe program.

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