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EL-REA-185 ✓
 HANFORD ATOMIC

PRODUCTS OPERATION

IRRADIATION
 PROCESSING DEPARTMENT

U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
 Richland Operations Office
 Richland, Washington

Attention: Mr. A. T. Gifford, Director
 Production Division

Gentlemen:

Classification Cancelled and Changed To 1964

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By Authority of DS LEWIS,
 CG-NMP-1, 4-28-94

By DL Hanson, 5-13-94

Verified By J. M. Mally, 5-17-94
 This document consists of 1 page.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION OF URANIUM-233

As you know, we are currently engaged in a program to produce 110 kg of uranium-233 for delivery in December 1965. Although the schedule for this program is in some jeopardy because of delay in getting into production of thorium at another location, the vendors should ultimately be able to deliver thorium at the desired rate.

We have recently investigated the feasibility of producing additional uranium-233 in time for the same chemical separations campaign in the Purex plant during the fall of 1965. Our studies indicate that if the vendor were to continue to produce additional amounts of thorium after meeting his present commitments, this thorium could be irradiated in the cores of the C, D, and KE Reactors and an additional 60 kg of uranium-233 could be delivered without affecting the time when the 110 kg of uranium-233 would otherwise be delivered.

Based on the present schedule for the 110 kg program, we would plan to start loadings for a 60 kg program early in March 1965. This would require the production of an additional 60 tons of thorium over a six weeks period, and procurement of 500 tons of enriched uranium of which 175 tons would be needed early in February. Components for canning the thorium would cost about \$20,000 and would have to be ordered promptly.

Delay beyond the first of December in authorizing this program would have the effect of:

- (a) reducing the amount of uranium-233 which can be produced concurrently with the present program, or
- (b) requiring an expensive separate Purex campaign at a later date, or

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U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

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- (c) delaying delivery of the presently committed 110 kg of uranium-233 until after the additional amount of thorium oxide would have been irradiated and cooled for chemical processing.

We conclude that if additional production of uranium-233 is desired there is a large incentive to obtain authorization of the program as soon as possible.

This additional 60 kg of uranium-233 could be produced without the expenditure of any capital funds beyond those required for the already-approved 110 kg program, and with no increase in our operating budget.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "O.C. Schroeder".

Acting General Manager

OC Schroeder:WKW:jm

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