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AIR MAIL

TO: Walter J. Williams, USAEC, Washington, D.C.

February 18, 1949

FROM: J. E. Travis, Acting Manager, Hanford
Operations Office, Richland, Washington

EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 16, 1949

SYMBOL: ICH:RWR

Enclosed is subject report for week ending February 16, 1949.

J. E. Travis

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Series "A"

EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 16, 1949

Hanford Operations Office
Richland, Washington

I - ADMINISTRATION:

No significant events to report

II - OPERATIONS:

P-10 - First "hot" run on line 1 is scheduled to start February 16 for final check of line. Actual production is to start February 17. Yields have been good.

Redox - Rehabilitation of the 321 building is underway and the scale-up unit is to resume operation in 2 - 3 weeks.

First tests to determine if an explosion would result from a spark in nitrogen - hexone and air-hexone vapor above the surface of hexone in a 55-gallon drum were conducted February 15. No explosion resulted. Composition of the vapor above the liquid is being checked and tests will be repeated.

Metal Waste Recovery - Design of a satisfactory 100-gallon shipping container for Hanford metal wastes was completed February 15; procurement of materials has been undertaken; and fabrication of two containers is scheduled for completion by March 7.

231 Building - Operating cell number 4 was abandoned February 14 due to air contamination, the source of which has not yet been determined. As a result, cell number 2 was started up for the first time. This is the first instance of cell failure since initial plant operation which has required start up of a standby cell.

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General - Representatives of the General Electric Company and the Hanford Operations Office met with Los Alamos personnel during the week of February 1 to discuss: (1) Critical mass considerations as related to Hanford, (2) Higher concentration material from Hanford as related to Los Alamos requirements, (3) Rala, (4) P-10, and (5) 234-5 program.

III - CONSTRUCTION:

Process Areas:

100 (Pile) Areas:

100-H - A total of 96,305 pieces of graphite have been processed to

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date for the 105-H building; fabrication is 96% complete and milling to semi-finished stage is complete. Layer number 58 is being assembled in the assembly block. The 105-H building is considered 46% complete with "T" sections being cleaned preparatory to placing of laminations, and work is to be commenced on elevators "C" and "D". The 100-H project is considered 49% complete overall.

100-DR - Testing of various portions of 100-DR is in progress. The 107-DR retention basin is still not acceptable because of leakage, and tests of other basin in the area have just begun. A 36" Chapman check valve gasket blew out at 450# pressure during test of 105-DR, and some testing work is being delayed pending replacement of the gasket.

P-10 - In order to permit the Technical Division to start operation, an inspection, with exceptions, was made. The project is 84% complete.

200 (Separation) Areas:

234-5 - Buildings 284-W, 283-W, 2719-W, and 2704-Z are over 99% complete and ready for preliminary inspection. The entire project is considered 75.3% complete with Phase I of the 234-5 building 75.6% complete. In the 234-5 building lathing is essentially complete on the second floor, and work on the first floor area is in progress; plastering in the filter rooms is 56% complete and the second floor is 84% complete; piping is 66 1/2% complete with the service piping practically complete except for stainless steel, the latter is delayed by a shortage of heli-arc welders; the ventilation system ductwork, other than stainless steel and air return, is 98% complete. Installation of equipment in the chemical preparation room is to start this week. Seventeen hoods will be set by the weekend and twenty-four have been delivered for the analytical lab.

Redox - The work slab for the second section of the Redox test plant has been poured; sheet piling for the last six wells was placed and wall forms were started for the first section of the building.

Waste Storage - Sidewalls for 8 1/2 tanks have been erected and knuckles for all twelve tanks have been fitted. X-raying is in progress on the second tank and results thus far indicate greatly improved welding over previous tank farm construction.

Process Area - General:

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Replacement of the exterior walls of the 321 building is about 85% complete and the replacement partitions are about 60% complete. An average force of forty men are working on the rehabilitation of this building.

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The 3706 building conversion and the 3707-C construction is 69% complete.

An estimated 471,500 yards of gravel have been placed to stabilize the sand blow areas in connection with the plant railroad program. This work is 88% complete with other phases of the program progressing.

Richland Village:

Housing - Structural work on the 1000 "Ranch" type homes is considered 99.7% complete. Various utility work is in progress; thawing of frozen water mains and laterals by electrical means is continuing with difficulty, and it may become necessary to expose the remaining lines and thaw by flooding the trenches.

Schools - Installation of sidewalks, asphalt, quarry tile, and steel lockers is in progress at the Junior High School. Delayed delivery of kitchen and other equipment is preventing final completion of the Spalding School. Fan and air washer equipment in the Marcus Whitman and Lewis and Clark Schools is ready for test.

Miscellaneous Construction:

The North storage reservoir roof replacement project was cancelled because the low bid exceeded authorized funds. A study may be authorized to accomplish temporary construction.

A study is in progress to incorporate all proposed Village street paving under one proposal with work to be accomplished by a single contractor on a unit price basis.

A determination of the extent of quicksand, noted during foundation exploration tests for the Southern Railroad connection, has been made, and it is estimated that 250 feet of trestle in lieu of fill will be required.

Personnel:

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There are approximately 13,765 construction and 847 architect engineer (less Turnbull) employees on the payroll. Camp population is 12,448 and there are 355 applicants for trailer space.

IV - VISITORS:

Messrs. Schnellharrrdt, Conway, Thomas, Kelly, and Drake of the Walla Walla District Office, Corps of Engineers, were visitors of the project regarding such matters as aggregate materials for levee

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construction, drainage areas behind proposed permanent levees, and soil explorations in connection with the Southern Railroad connection.

Mr. Jay Perry, Benton County Commissioner, and Mr. Frank Maupin and Mr. Frank Lampson, Kennewick businessmen, visited regarding possible benefits to Richland which may be derived as a result of the Kennewick Canal Development by the Bureau of Reclamation. These men are preparing to visit Washington in an attempt to obtain increased appropriations for the canal. This office agreed that a number of indirect benefits to the Commission would result from the development.

V - SCHELECTADY - CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS KAPL:

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Construction Progress:

Pilot Plant - Completed application of floor topping except for receiving area and started erection of fireproof partitions. Started installation of air ducts and overhead piping above mezzanine floor. On plant annex completed erection and painting of structural steel for scrubber pumphouse and application of floor topping except for concrete stairs.

Physics Laboratory - Completed concreting floor slab on second and monitor floors.

Central Shops - Started painting of interior surfaces on main floor; also installation of main telephone trunk line in service tunnel.

Metallurgy and Engineering Building - Completed concreting of walls for pits and started backfilling operations. Started formwork for steel lines depressed areas in south half of building.

Chemistry Laboratory - Started installation of overhead piping on equipment floor and completed installation of main telephone cable in basement.

Waste Concentration and Storage Building - Concreted portion of main floor slab, concreted slab above drum dryer cells. Completed erection and painting of structural steel for cooling tower pumphouse and waterproofing of waste storage cells hatch covers.

Steam Plant and Laundry - Commenced setting laundry equipment. Started installing compressor machinery, switch gear and transformer for substation in turbine room.

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General:

The number of construction employees on the payroll are as follows:
Walsh Construction Company - 542, lump sum sub-subcontractors - 141,
cost plus sub-subcontractors - 370, GE Realty Corp. - 20, Blaw Knox
Construction Company - 13, total 1086.

At Airco lab the design of a unit to study rare gas absorption has
been completed. A bibliographic report is being issued on the
properties of rare gases. The Airco report on a unit for removal of
iodine from Hanford dissolver off gases has been distributed.

Dr. Manson Benedict of Hydrocarbon Research, Inc., member of the
Reactor Safeguard Committee and AEC consultant, visited Schenectady
operations Monday at Manager's request to discuss the Redox and
waste disposal programs and to inspect existing facilities.
Dr. Benedict expressed his satisfaction as to the approach and
accomplishments made in these fields, especially in the progress
on the research on the liquid waste disposal problem.

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A handwritten signature, possibly "J. Schenectady", written in dark ink over a horizontal line.

END

**DATE
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