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FROM: Fred C. Schlemmer, Manager, Hanford Operations
Office, Richland, Washington

March 4, 1949

EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 2, 1949

SYMBOL: ICH:RWR

Enclosed is subject report for week ending March 2, 1949.

DOE ARCHIVES

Fred C. Schlemmer

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EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 2, 1949

Hanford Operations Office
Richland, Washington

I - ADMINISTRATION:

Counsel:

Contract - The du Pont subcontract No. G-174 was extended to August 31, 1949, by Modification No. 1, dated February 21, 1949, and approved February 28, 1949.

Organization and Personnel:

Contractor Personnel - As a result of a review of the scope of project work, a substantial reduction of employees in the contractor and sub-contractors organizations will be effected during the month. The total number of construction personnel to be affected is not yet known; however, it is estimated that approximately 700 operations personnel will be terminated.

II - OPERATIONS:

Higher Power Level:

The General Electric Company, Technical Division, has indicated interest in raising the operating power level of one pile. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Division of Production by this office as soon as a formal proposal has been received.

Dead Horses and Cattle:

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On or about February 11, 1949, two farmers of the Sunnyside region, Yakima County, reported the death of horses and cattle to the Hanford office. One farmer, William Casteel, reported having seen green smoke from Hanford stacks settling on his land. Shortly thereafter he and a neighbor started losing animals. The neighbor reports losing 14 out of 16 horses. All animals were feeding in a canyon 15 miles WSW of the 200 W area. Examination of the carcasses by local veterinarians revealed no apparent cause of death. One horse was found to have a tick present in one ear and discolored bone structure in the skull. Green crust was found in the stomachs of the horses. The viscera of one horse was sent to Dr. Ensminger, Washington State College, who is consultant to Hanford on animal husbandry. Dr. Ensminger will make a complete study including the collection of plants, weeds, and grasses in the vicinity of the farms to determine

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the contamination, if any. The thyroid of one horse was checked for activity by the Health Instrument Division, Hanford. Total activity measured was 3.2×10^{-4} microcuries for 13 grams, or 1/1000 of tolerance. Death could not have resulted from the radioactive content of this organ.

Stack Gas Problem:

Representatives of the Air Reduction Company arrived in Richland March 2 for discussions with CE and local AEC personnel regarding removal of radioactive iodine and other aspects of stack gas decontamination.

III - CONSTRUCTION:

Process Areas:

100 (Pile) Areas:

100-H - In the 105-H building, erection of "B" blocks and installation of the laminations in the "T" sections is still in progress; the roof slab is being placed over the control room. Underwater work in the 181 building is complete, and pumps at the cofferdam have been removed to allow the structure to fill to 370.25'. Fabrication of graphite sample bars is continuing and layer No. 74 is being assembled in the assembly block. Building 105-H is 50% complete, and the total "H" project is considered 56% complete.

100-DR - Testing is continuing on 105-DR and on the leakage in the 107-DR retention basin.

P-10 - This project is 85% complete.

200 (Separation) Areas:

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234-5 - On February 23 the General Electric Company was requested to proceed on this project as follows:

1. Suspend all work involving cost to the Commission and incur no expenditures not specifically essential to the completion of Phase I of this program.
2. Allow no overtime beyond the present six-day work week.
3. Prepare a detailed statement of expenditures made through February 15, 1949, which will also include a statement of commitments in effect as of February 15, 1949.
4. Review the entire 234-5 program to remove all items not essential to the manufacturing processes.

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The above request has been accomplished. The entire 234-5 project is considered 87.3% complete, and Phase I is 88.3% complete. Forty rooms on the first floor and five rooms on the second floor in the 234-5 building have been completed; plastering is essentially complete in the entire building; the ventilating system is now 92% complete, and 200 sheet metal workers have been terminated; piping is 88% complete; lighting 85% complete, and other portions of the building are in various stages of completion. Preliminary inspections were held February 25 on the 284-W, 2719-W, 283-W, and 2704-Z buildings and exceptions noted.

Redox - On February 23 the General Electric Company was requested to review the program and present their opinions no later than February 25 on the following:

1. The desirability of suspending construction activity on the Redox test plant until 75% of the detailed design drawings are in the hands of the construction sub-contractor, or July 1, 1949, whichever is earlier. This action would appear to provide an opportunity of saving a minimum of \$500,000 in the fiscal year 1949 expenditures.
2. The desirability of eliminating the construction of the Redox test plant entirely in view of its probable unavailability in time to be of material value incident to the design and initial operation of the first Redox main plant.

Work on the wall forms and resteel of the project continues and the next concrete is to be poured March 3.

Waste Storage - All tanks on the 241 BY project have been assembled, guniting is in process on the first tank, the fifth tank is being X-rayed, and seven tanks have been raised.

Process Area - General:

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All construction forces were cut to a five-day week as of February 25 except on the 234-5 project where a similar limitation was imposed effective March 1, 1949.

Rehabilitation of the 321 building is considered 60% complete. A load test is being made of the central portion of the roof to determine necessary repairs to that portion.

Richland Village:

Housing - 960 of the "ranch" type houses have been cleared of exceptions, Utility work is in progress.

Schools - All classrooms of the Junior High School were accepted with exceptions February 23 and the school occupied February 28. Minor work remains, and the project is 95% complete.

Miscellaneous Construction:

A subcontract will not be awarded for the North Storage Reservoir roof replacement. CE forces have removed the roof and supports and will install a chlorinator between the two reservoirs.

The automatic dial telephone project in Richland is 63% complete, and final completion is scheduled for October 31, 1949.

The 115 KV transmission line and substations are estimated to be 63% complete.

Personnel:

There are approximately 12,830 construction and 813 architect engineer employees (less Turnbull) on the payroll. Camp population is 11,605, and there are 324 applicants for trailer space.

IV - VISITORS:

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An Army Photographic Detachment visited this installation on February 25 and 26 to film various plant and town subjects for inclusion in the "Operation Sandstone" film.

Messrs. William L. Borden, Executive Secretary, and Edward L. Heller, staff member, of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, visited on March 2. They conferred with various contractor and AEC staff members and made a complete tour of the plant area.

Dr. Theodore F. Hatch from the Industrial Hygiene Foundation of Mellon Institute, New York, arrived on the project on February 28 and will be here for one week reviewing the stack gas problems.

Mr. Lloyd E. Harrison, Chief, Lighting Division, and Mr. George E. Johnson, Chief, Engineering Division, of the Seattle office of the C.A.A. were here on February 28 and March 1 checking design requirements on the proposed improvements to the AEC airport.

Mr. M. A. Mickerson of the Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers, was here on February 28 estimating probable damages to the Village if a flood of the 1894 proportions occurred without levee protection.

Messrs. Paul Carrico of the San Francisco office of the Bureau of the Budget and Glen Lathrop from the Seattle office of the Federal Works Administration were here on March 1 studying the financial problems of off-project schools which we are assisting.

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V - SCHENECTADY - CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS KAPL:

Construction Progress:

Physics Laboratory - 45% complete. Completed installation of flashing and gutter on penthouse and started application of water proofing on service tunnel.

Metallurgy and Engineering Building - 39% complete. Started painting interior surfaces, application of floor topping on main floor, and erection of roof and mezzanine floor beams in accordance with modified plans.

Chemistry Laboratory - 50% complete. Continued installation of overhead piping on equipment floor and in service tunnel. Continued pipe fitting in basement and temporary hookup of auxiliary electrical equipment.

Pilot Plant Laboratory - 91% complete. Continued miscellaneous interior finishing on first floor and mechanical and electrical work on equipment and basement floor.

Pilot Plant - 60% complete. Continued erection of fireproof partitions, installation of air ducts and overhead piping above mezzanine floors, installation of cranes, and electric service. In annex, completed application of insulation and siding of main structure and scrubber pump house. Started installation of copper coping and flashing.

Waste Disposal Building - 32% complete. Completed application of installation and siding on cooling tower pump house. Continued welding stainless steel floor lining in neutralization and hot and cold evaporator cells.

General:

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Continued operations for acquisition of land and other miscellaneous construction work for West Milton area.

Du Pont representatives visited Schenectady operations Monday and Tuesday of this week for detailed technical discussions with the KAPL chemical and chemical engineering groups.

Messrs. Van Sickle and Inglehart of the Corps of Engineers met with Schenectady Manager and staff last Thursday to discuss definite boundaries of the West Milton area site. To date, purchase options on this site acquired by the Corps of Engineers consist of sixteen tracts totaling 1,086 acres.

Fred B. DeHann

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