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**Fred C. Schlemmer, Manager
Richland, Washington**

ADDRESSED TO—

Walter J. Williams
Washington, D. C.

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Encl. Weekly Activity Report sy 18A[illegible]

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TO: Walter J. Williams, USAEC, Washington, D. C.
FROM: Fred C. Schlemmer, Manager, Hanford Operations
Office, Richland, Washington

April 1, 1949

EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 30, 1949

SYMBOL: ICH:RTR

Enclosed is subject report for week ending March 30, 1949.

Fred C. Schlemmer

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Series "A"

EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 30, 1949

Hanford Operations Office
Richland, Washington

I - ADMINISTRATION:

Labor Relations:

March 23, 1949, the inside wiremen under the jurisdiction of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union No. 112, remained away from the job. On Friday, March 25, the Union had demanded assurance that a proposed wage increase for electricians from \$2.30 to \$2.50 per hour, retroactive to January 1, 1949, was in force and effect. The matter of the wage increase, which is in excess of the prevailing rate in the area, was formally presented to AEC March 29, 1949.

The workers on the project under the jurisdiction of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, on the morning of March 28, 1949, after reporting at the 3000 Area Bus Terminal, refused to go on to work. The controversy, outwardly, resulted from a demand from the plumbers that sufficient buses be provided so that only 38 passengers should occupy the 41 passenger buses. The plumbers and steamfitters returned to the job March 29 under the same conditions as had existed prior to March 28, 1949.

II - OPERATIONS:

Stuck Slug:

During scheduled shutdown at F pile on March 29, tube 2695 proved difficult to discharge. Slugs in the tube were 8-inch, gamma extruded, triple dipped, and were discharged at a nominal 220 MWd. Seven hours were required to push them, moving six inches at a time. Slugs are not yet inspected due to cloudy basin.

Increased Enrichment

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A total of 12 tons of alpha-rolled, triple dipped slugs have been discharged during March at a nominal enrichment of 320 MWd per ton. No difficulty was experienced during discharge, and slugs showed only slight blistering and no other apparent dimensional distortion.

200 Area:

Eighty-three initial separations have been made in the 200 Area during the current month up to, and including, the morning of

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March 30. This achievement is due to a record number of runs started in the West Area Canyon Building. At this date there have been 43 runs processed through the extraction cycle at this plant with good promise of 50 by the end of the month—a new high for the bismuth phosphate process.

III - CONSTRUCTION:

Process Areas:

100 (Pile) Areas:

100-E - The sixth tier of "B" blocks on the inlet face and the sub "B" blocks for the fifth tier on the outlet face are being installed in the 105-H Building, as well as the thirteenth layer of laminations on the side adjacent to the control room and the sixteenth layer on the side opposite the control room. Definite datum has been established for the placement of the cast iron base blocks, and they are now being installed for the third time. Graphite layup and disassembly in the 101 Building has been completed, and maintenance and labor crews are engaged in a general cleanup. The 105-H Building is now 57% complete with H Area considered 62.5% complete.

100-DR - Five items remain to be completed on the 105-DR test check list. Repairs have not been started on the 107-DR Retention Basin although plastic is being cut out of the expansion joints. Thirteen test wells, 35 feet deep, are being drilled around the retention basin.

Pile Area General - Vertical rod replacement in 105-B, 105-D, and 105-F is about 53% complete. The 111-B metallurgical mock-up is estimated at 90% complete. 30% of the equipment to be removed from the 108-B Building is now dismantled. This building is to be used as a biology building.

P-10 and P-10-A - Project P-10 is 97% complete. Project P-10-A is 8% complete with the basement floor being reworked for equipment foundations. The interior block wall is being completed in the 108-B Building.

200 (Separation) Areas:

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234-5 - The installation of refrigeration equipment which has been delayed by lack of design information is now expected to be complete by April 15, 1949. Ventilating and sheetmetal work is now 98.5% complete; piping is 98% complete. Some labor trouble involving electrical and the pipe crafts has caused some delays. The total project is considered 95.9% complete.

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Waste Storage - Project 241-BY is now 52% complete with eight of the tanks repaired, after X-ray, and lowered. X-ray work should be complete by April 8. Dome forms are being set for the first tank, and wall forms are being set for the fifth tank.

Richland Village:

Housing - 552 of the 1000 "ranch" type homes have now been painted on the exterior. Exterior paint work has been resumed on the contract for painting 514 of the older dwellings.

Schools - Slow delivery of some equipment is delaying final completion of the Junior High and Spalding Schools.

Miscellaneous Construction:

Fire Station - This project has been cancelled by GE.

Aerial Survey - GE is preparing invitations to bid on a lump sum basis for the aerial survey of the Village.

Commercial Firms - Construction by private firms of two facilities in the central commercial area is in progress.

Sewage Treatment Plant - The secondary digester dome is expected to be complete this week. Substitution of a portable pressure pump, using effluent in place of a water line around the clarifiers for flushing and washing purposes, will save \$17,000.

Water Supply - Scarifying of the A&J well pit is completed, and it is planned to scrape the bottom and haul out the silt. The chlorination system at the NK&K pit is being connected for use. The two million gallon reservoir is being filled during low demand hours. Representatives of Alvord, Burdick & Howson were in Richland obtaining information for engineering plans for the 1949 water supply.

North Richland Fire Alarm System - The fire alarm award approval was returned to the GE Contract Section for reconciliation of the high estimate as compared with the low bid (\$34,000 vs. \$14,978).

Personnel:

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There are approximately 747 architect engineer (less Turnbull) and 9,930 construction employees on the pay roll. Construction camp population is 9,253, and there are 299 trailer spaces unassigned.

IV - VISITORS:

Mr. G. R. Hopkins, Northern Pacific Railroad, and Mr. J. D. Searles, Union Pacific Railroad, inspected and approved the railroad connection on the bridge crossing over the irrigation ditch on March 28.

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On March 29, Messrs. Green, Culbertson, Holmes, of the Seattle District Corps of Engineers, investigated 1948 flood damage on the Yakima River.

Mr. Jay Perry, Benton County Commissioner, visited to discuss the road from the Yakima River to the "Y", on March 25.

Mr. E. L. Lindman, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, State of Washington, visited the project on March 24, to discuss financing problems of the Richland schools.

Mr. N. A. Nickerson, of the Walla Walla Office, Corps of Engineers visited the project March 28, to discuss and survey the potential threat to 700 Area facilities if no dikes are built on the Columbia to protect the project against McNary Dam backwater.

V - SCHENECTADY - CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS KAPL:

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Construction Progress:

Physics Laboratory - Completed installation of telephone and signal conduit in service tunnel. Started installation of bus ducts in electrical shafts and erection of framing for pipe shafts.

Metallurgy and Engineering Building - Started waterproofing surfaces of pits, depressed floor areas, and setting steel linings. Commenced concreting column footings for Area D-4.

Chemistry Laboratory - Started installation of air ducts, assembling lighting load center, and testing of rough plumbing.

Pilot Plant Laboratory - Started testing air conditioning equipment on first and equipment floors.

Pilot Plant Annex - Started installation of filters and pumps and completed application of built-up roofing on scrubber pump house.

Waste Storage and Concentration Building - Completed welding stainless steel lining in neutralization cells. Commenced welding and painting structural steel, placing roof deck, and concreting curbs for partitions.

Gas Purification Building - Completed painting of interior surfaces and concreted floor slab. Started installation of roof drains and concrete finishing of exterior wall surfaces.

Water and City Gas Pump House - Completed testing of gas compressors, installation of air ducts, and painting of interior surfaces.

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City Gas Distribution - Gas service turned on at entrance to project on March 23, 1949.

Electrical Distribution - All power cut off temporary sub-station and transferred to permanent sub-station.

General:

Number of employees on KAPL construction project: Walsh Construction Company 488, lump sum sub-subcontractor 89, cost plus sub-subcontractor 450, GE Realty Corporation 16, Blaw Knox Construction Company 8. Total 1,051.

At Air Reduction Sales Company Laboratory, work is continuing on the design and the development of the iodine removal unit. Work is continuing on developing better analytical procedures for determining stable iodine. A transfer system for handling active iodine is being developed. Two systems are being prepared to study the removal of nitric oxide from stack gases, an adsorption system and a condensation system.

Dr. L. I. Gilbertson and Dr. A. Muller, Airco, visited this installation last Thursday to discuss the possibility of Airco developing a destructor to handle contaminated solid waste which would be of value to KAPL. As a result of this meeting and a subsequent meeting of the KAPL Waste Disposal Committee, KAPL will submit a formal request for Airco's services in which they will define the scope of the work to be performed at each installation.

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Fred B. Ackerman

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