

Files

March 6, 1956

G. Hovorka

CURTISS-WRIGHT RESEARCH REACTOR

On March 5, 1956, the writer met with Messrs. Harry Reese, Walter Friedlander, and Carlisle Roberts, representatives of the Curtiss-Wright Aircraft Corporation, and Captain Gerald F. Helfrich, representatives of the Aircraft Reactors Branch, for the purpose of discussing a proposed swimming pool type research reactor.

In general, the usual information type of meeting was conducted wherein the representatives of Curtiss-Wright were informed of the essential data to be provided in their Reactor Hazard Summary Report.

The location of the proposed reactor has been established on a 54,000 acre plot which Curtiss-Wright presently owns. The plot covers an area roughly 10 miles in diameter situated 120 miles Northeast of Pittsburgh and approximately 120 miles Northwest of Harrisburg. The exact siting of the reactor would place it  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the nearest land not owned by Curtiss-Wright. A favorable situation exists in that in this direction, adjoining the Curtiss-Wright site is a State or Federal controlled forest area. Approximately 200 people are already employed within facilities constructed on the site. The reactor site itself will be located 7 miles from these existing facilities.

The power level contemplated is in a range of 100 kw to 1,000 kw. A discussion ensued from this statement of uncertainty and the writer indicated that more than likely the higher power level would be sought after a few months of operation at the 100 kw limit. Consequently, a definite decision should be reached with regard to the eventual power level and an application submitted on a more realistic basis. Certainly, the design should incorporate flexible features which could result in slight modifications and yet retain a safety feature for operation at the higher power level (1 megawatt).

Curtiss-Wright intends to purchase the reactor from a commercial supplier and have it constructed at the site under the supervision of Ralph M. Parsons, who is retained as Architect-Engineer for the project. The reactor hazard evaluations are to be made by Curtiss-Wright personnel of the Nuclear Physics Division. The capabilities of this group appears to be of high order. Theoretical work has been undertaken by the staff of the Physics Division for both Oak

D-1



## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Files

DATE: ~~June~~ 2  
March 6, 1956

Hovorka

FROM : G. Hovorka *G. Hovorka*Scott *gp*Garrick *g*SUBJECT: CURTISS-WRIGHT RESEARCH REACTOR

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*R.H.F.L.*

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Ridge National Laboratory and Special Aircraft Reactor Programs. Mr. Reece indicated that it is their desire to utilize this proposal as a stepping stone leading to more elaborate undertakings by Curtiss-Wright.

The initial experimental work to be undertaken is to be sponsored by the Air Force; however, the facility is to be constructed with Curtiss-Wright funds.

For further details with regard to the filing of application for special nuclear materials, reactor, etc., the writer referred the group to Mr. Fleury of the Licensing Branch.

cc: Lyall Johnson, CA