

INFORMAL MEMORANDUM

C. G. Manly

August 30, 1957

S. R. Gaarder

CURTISS-WRIGHT CORPORATION - AUGUST 28, 1957 VISIT

On August 28 Messrs. R. P. Sumner and J. W. Sausville of Curtiss-Wright Corporation met with C. G. Manly and S. R. Gaarder in connection with Curtiss-Wright entry into the atomic energy field. The visitors were interested in commercial opportunities in chemical processing operations. They have recently formed the nucleus of a chemical processing group in the Nuclear Power Department of the Research Division.

We described the AEC radiochemical processing program (unfamiliar to the visitors) and suggested a variation on the AEC program - a small single - purpose plant, located at a power reactor site, as opposed to the multi-purpose approach considered in the AEC program. The visitors wished to know what business could be assured, assuming Curtiss-Wright built a minimum plant for its own fuel elements plus related types of fuel. In reply it was pointed out that the private reactor operators were essentially free agents as far as AEC was concerned, and that while we could make no guarantees, our current practice is to not furnish services available commercially. Oxide conversion was cited as an example. The possibility of tying in with power reactor operators such as Yankee Atomic, Commonwealth Edison or Consolidated Edison was mentioned, also the related opportunities in marketing some of the radioisotopes separated in the chemical processing; cited interest of U. S. Radium in a firm supply of Kr-85.

The visitors were also interested in exploring the possibilities of processing bomb liner material and in reworking residues such as those at NLO, to recover vanadium, copper chromum, etc. With regard to bomb liner material, the magnesium fluoride program was described. Concerning the NLO residues, we speculated that this was Belgian material and stated we would look into it and arrange a meeting if so desired.

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6.10.57.3 Curtiss-Wright
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