

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

**TO :** F. K. Pittman, Director, Division of Reactor Development, Headquarters

**DATE:** September 13, 1960

**FROM :** S. R. Sapirie, Manager, Oak Ridge Operations

**SUBJECT:** VISIT BY TERRILL OF USPHS RE PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC REACTOR

**SYMBOL:** OE:DFC

This memorandum is to provide information on a visit on September 1 by Mr. James G. Terrill, Jr., Division of Radiological Health, U. S. Public Health Service, to Oak Ridge for discussions with David F. Cope with respect to the Philadelphia Electric reactor and work related thereto. Mr. Terrill advised that the USPHS is acting as a consultant to the State of Pennsylvania with respect to this project, and he inquired regarding the possibility of arranging for access to all research and development information developed by the Philadelphia Electric (PE) complex which relates to the safety of the reactor. According to Mr. Terrill, the purpose of their having early access to this information would be to permit them to make judgments and recommendations prior to the time that final actions are taken and prior to public hearings on the safety aspects of the reactor.

Mr. Terrill suggested that this could be done generally through two mechanisms:

1. A three-way working agreement between the AEC, the USPHS, and PE and their associated contractors (particularly General Atomic) so as to keep the USPHS informed on the various problems and the methods used in their solution to the same extent as the AEC. In this connection, Mr. Terrill used as an example the working arrangements that had existed between the Naval Reactors Branch and the USPHS on the Shippingport project.
2. Access by the USPHS to research and development reports issued by the PE group and General Atomic (GA) in particular. Mr. Terrill was particularly interested in research and development information in its preliminary stages and prior to the time it would normally be released for public dissemination through the Office of Technical Information. The reason given by Mr. Terrill for this was the time delay between the development of the information and the issuance of the formal reports.

Dr. Cope indicated a willingness to cooperate in any way possible but advised of several problems which are generally as follows:

4-86

1. Under the contractual arrangements with PE, the AEC has a direct contract with PE which entitles access to certain data and reports as mutually agreed upon. Also, the AEC has a direct contract with GA for research and development work in support of the High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGR) and that we are entitled to reports on this work. However, in addition, PE also has direct contracts with GA and Bechtel Corporation over which the AEC has no direct control.
2. As a result of a policy decision within the AEC, PE submits hazards reports directly to the Division of Licensing and Regulation, Headquarters, in the same manner as any licensee and, although ORO is to receive copies of these reports, we have no direct control over what is submitted.
3. Many of the reports submitted by GA are internal reports and under present AEC regulations (AEC Chapter 3202) these reports cannot be made available to the USPHS without being subject to general distribution by OTIE. This problem is further complicated by the fact that GA is doing a certain amount of work with their own funds which relates to the HTGR and the dissemination of reports on this work has not yet been resolved. There are also patents problems and other legal questions involved which make it administratively undesirable to make such reports prematurely available to the USPHS.
4. Care must be exercised to insure that PE and members of their contract group are not subjected to requests with regard to the safety aspects of the reactor which arise from different sources, such as the AEC and the USPHS, and which may involve conflicting requirements that may result in confusion, delay, and added costs to the project.

Mr. Terrill indicated that he had come directly to Oak Ridge on this problem in the hopes of being able to simplify the problem and avoid a complicated formal arrangement between the AEC and the USPHS. He was advised that since AEC policies are involved requests of this nature should be submitted through AEC Headquarters. Mr. Terrill was advised, however, that ORO is willing to cooperate by listing him for the receipt of formal reports and by arranging visits to Oak Ridge for further discussions as necessary. Mr. Terrill apparently was disappointed with not being able to work out the type of arrangement which he had hoped; nevertheless, he seemed satisfied with the results of the visit and expressed an understanding of the problem with which we are faced in this particular instance. Mr. Terrill indicated that he would probably make a letter request to Dr. Woodruff, Office of Health and Safety, for the desired information.

September 13, 1960

We feel that positive steps should be taken to make appropriate information available to the USPHS but that any contact with AEC contractors on matters related to the contract obligations should be through the proper channels in order that our contractors, such as Philadelphia Electric and General Atomic, not be subject to instructions and advice from different sources. Meanwhile, we would appreciate any guidance on this matter.

  
S. R. Savirle

CC: N. H. Woodruff, Headquarters  
H. L. Price, Headquarters ✓  
R. C. Armstrong  
J. W. Ould, Jr.  
H. M. Roth