

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

SEP 19 1972

Gen W. Roy, RO
Richard E. Cunningham, L
James C. Malaro, L
Marvin Goldman, BER
Joanna M. Becker, OGC
Cecil R. Buchanan, L
James J. Henry, L
Gene A. Blanc, L

MEETING WITH SEVERAL ARMY ORGANIZATIONS TO DISCUSS THORIUM GLASS
IN EYEPieces OF VARIOUS PIECES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

About a year ago, we were advised by the Military that they had found several eyepiece lenses in night-sight optical equipment contained thorium. More recently, the Mare Island Naval Shipyard reported safety spectacles containing thorium in tinted lenses. Since our first meeting with the Military on July 1971, the Army Material Command and the Materials Research Division have made measurements and collected other bits of information regarding the distribution of thorium containing glass in eyepiece lenses.

The Military reports that some equipment containing thoriated glass lenses are being supplied by foreign glass manufacturers. Some domestic suppliers claim thorium free glass but when measured, the Army finds thorium is present. The Military is seeking information on: (1) nondestructive, inexpensive methods of measuring thorium content of glass; (2) an acceptable level of exposure for the eye to alpha radiation; (3) regulatory provisions applicable to thorium in glass; and (4) control measurements such as specifications, marking, or identification of thorium glass.

The several Army organizations including the Army Material Command, Night Vision Laboratory, the Army Electronic Systems Command, and the Materials Research Support Division have requested a meeting with the AEC to discuss some of the problems they have encountered in attempts to limit purchases of eyepiece lenses to "no-thorium" glass and provide us with information that they have collected in their study over the past year or more. That meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 1972, from 10:00 till 2:00 in Room P-110, AEC Bethesda office. You and others in your group who are involved in the problem are invited to attend.

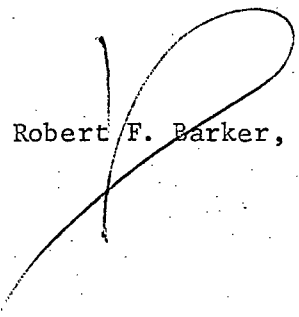
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Multiple Addressee

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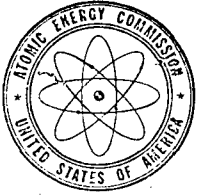
It is anticipated that the Army will make short presentations of their data with time for questions and discussion on each presentation. The AEC will be expected to review its investigation at American Optical (J. Metzger), to discuss recommendations for eye exposure levels (Marvin Goldman), and to summarize the regulatory provisions applicable to thorium in glass (J. Malaro). Some changes in Part 40 may be necessary but, of course, we will not attempt to modify the rule at this meeting.



Robert F. Barker, RS

Attachment:
Meeting Notice

cc: Lester Rogers, RS
Jared Davis, RS



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FORTHCOMING MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, October 11, 1972

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: P-110
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Bethesda, Md.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: To discuss use of thorium in glass.

1. Types of equipment in which thoriated glass is being found and sources of that glass.
2. Methods of assessing concentrations of thorium in glass and levels being measured.
3. Acceptable levels of alpha exposure to the eye.
4. Regulatory provisions applicable to thorium in glass.
5. Control measures such as specifications, marking or identification of thorium glass.

GROUPS PARTICIPATING: AEC and DOD

Robert F. Barker, Chief
Product Standards Branch
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