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Commission
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October 30, 1953

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REPOSITORY APCA - College Park
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1957-58
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FOLDER MFR 7 CASTLE

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 917

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 22, 1953

Present

Lewis L. Strauss
Henry D. Smyth
Thomas E. Murray
Eugene M. Zuckert

M.W. Boyer
Walter J. Williams
William L. Mitchell

Harold D. Anamosa
Charles A. Perry

Also Present

Brig. Gen. K.E. Fields
Maj. Kenneth B. Cooper
Lt. Col. Paul M. Butman
Paul Fine
Comdr. James Dunford
Colonel E.T. Dorsey
John Mackenzie
Capt. William L. Guthrie
Richard W. Cook

CASTLE Program

General Fields described in detail the proposed shot schedule for Operation CASTLE. As currently conceived by IASL and the Livermore Laboratory, but not yet concurred in by DMA, this series would consist of six shots to commence about March 1, and would include four devices developed at Los Alamos and two at Livermore. The first four shots would be fired at Bikini and the last two at Eniwetok. General Fields listed for the Commissioners the following table showing the devices to be tested, proposed dates, location and estimated yields:

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CLASSIFICATION CHANGED
OR CHANGED TO S.R.D.
BY AUTHORITY OF S.R. Kelly - Gurney
BY Kelly DATE 12-7-78

DOE ORDER 5650-28
REVIEWER (A.C.)
NAME: S.R. Kishner
DATE: 5-24-95

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
1ST REVIEW DATE: 02/20/04
AUTHORITY: EAAC, EAC, EAO, EDO
NAME: William L. Guthrie
2ND REVIEW DATE: 06/07/07
AUTHORITY: ADD
NAME: William L. Guthrie

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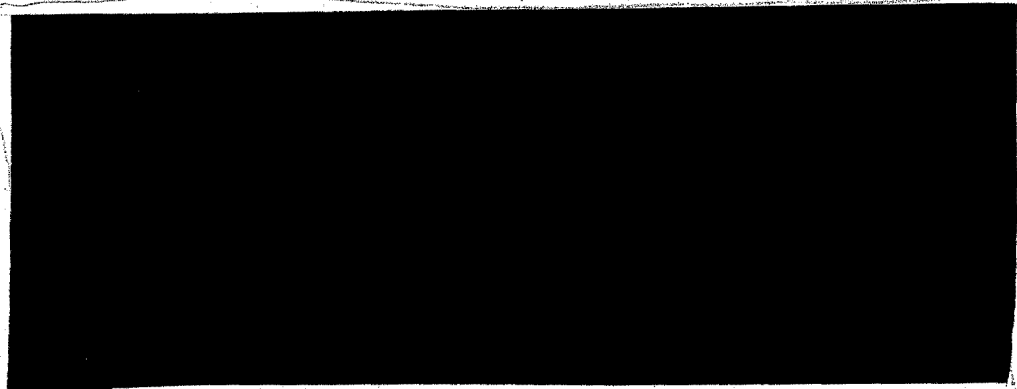
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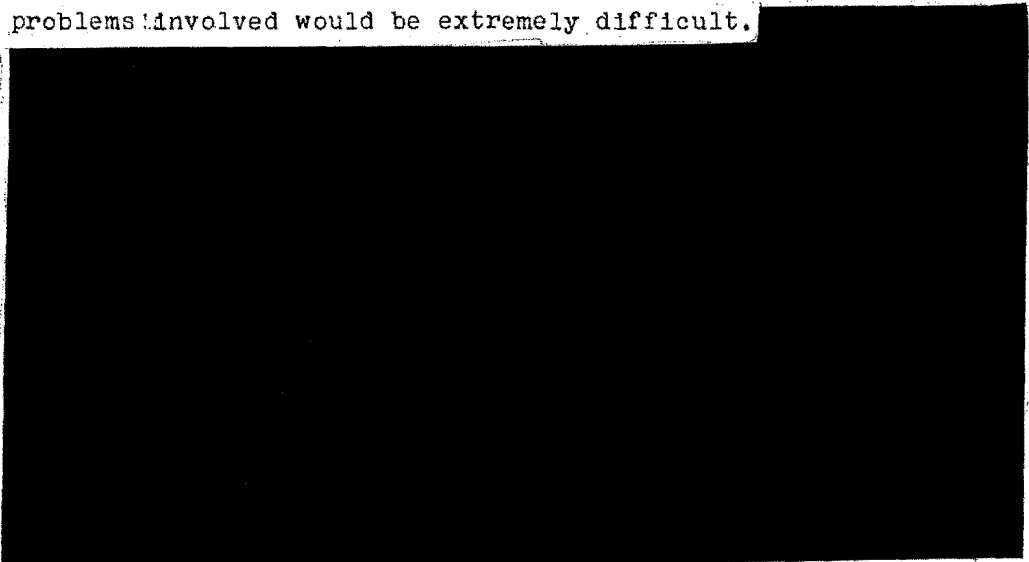
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DOE
6.1(a)

The proposed series differs in two major respects from that presented to the Commission by Dr. Graves on July 23, 1953 (see minutes of Meeting 893). The first change would be the postponement of the start of the series from the 15th of February to the first of March. This postponement is necessary because the construction at the test site is somewhat behind schedule, and though a February 15th date might be met, the logistic problems involved would be extremely difficult.



DOE
6.1(a)

This is because it would not be limited by the production of enriched lithium. Mr. Strauss remarked that the time element was a more important consideration than cost.



DOE
6.1(a)

[REDACTED]

DOE
6.1(a)

General Fields said that it is the consensus of LASL and UCRL scientific personnel that there will be a definite requirement for fully enriched lithium (95%).

[REDACTED]

DOE
6.1(a)

Optimism at Oak Ridge regarding future production possibilities for Li^6 is a further reason for the enthusiasm of the Laboratories for Li^6 as a weapons material. The proposed CASTLE program has been designed to exploit fully the future uses of Li^6 .

[REDACTED]

DOE
6.1(a)

At present, components and cases are being made for these weapons and drop tests are under way.

[REDACTED]

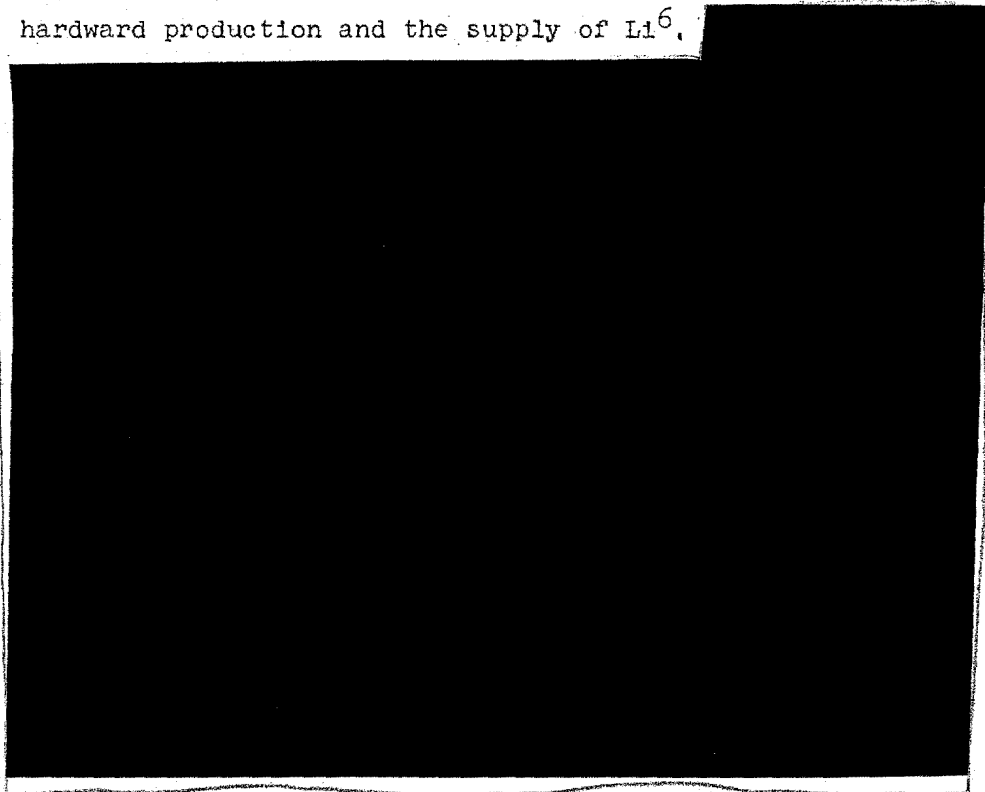
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DOE
6.1(a)

The Commission discussed in detail the emergency capability program, with special reference to the status of hardware production and the supply of Li⁶,



DOE
6.1(a)

If, however, the purpose of the test is to explore several approaches to an eventual high-yield low-weight weapon the entire test should be conducted. Mr. Strauss remarked that the emergency requirements for thermonuclear weapons is the AEC's most important current program, and that such suggestions as had been made in the course of the discussion must be promptly considered by the Commission.

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At this point Messrs. Mitchell, Anamosa, Mackenzie, and Perry; Colonels Dorsey and Butman, and Captain Guthrie and Commander Dunford left the meeting and the Commission continued their discussion of this topic in executive session.

HAROLD D. ANAMOSA
Acting Secretary

Approved by the Commission: NOV - 4 1953

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