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*Walter Baca*

Minutes of the Meeting of the Safety

Wednesday, March 7, 1945  
Mr. Mitchell's Office

SPECIAL RE-REVIEW  
FINAL DETERMINATION  
UNCLASSIFIED, DATE: 12/12/79

PUBLICLY RELEASABLE  
LANL Classification Group  
*12/5/79*

Present: Comdr. Bradbury, David Dow, Dr. Hempelmann, Stanley Kershaw, David Lipkin, and D. P. Mitchell

1. Mr. Mitchell recommended that Dr. Large's place on the Committee be taken over by Captain Nolan. Dr. Large has a regular operating schedule on Wednesday mornings and is unable to attend the meetings. The Committee requested that this recommendation be transmitted to Dr. Oppenheimer for consideration. It is also suggested that Dr. Nolan take over the first aid duties now being handled by Dr. Large.

2. Organization chart prepared by Mr. Kershaw was presented to the meeting and discussed. Mr. Kershaw pointed out that division organizations might be set up in various different ways, not necessarily committees. Mr. Kershaw reported that Colonel Tyler agreed to have Sgt. Abernathy transferred to his staff. It was suggested that Mr. Kershaw immediately undertake to get other assistants for his staff. The desirability of having a traffic engineer assigned to the Post was discussed, and it was the feeling of the Committee that the first step should be to have an expert make a survey of the Post with a view to making recommendations, one of which might be to secure a permanent engineer.

3. Mr. Mitchell submitted the reports of the special fire committee. He pointed out that the basic recommendation was the establishment of a system of building fire groups. Mr. Dow stated that in addition the Committee had recommended substantial tightening of the fire prevention organization and equipment and of the fire fighting units. It was suggested that the follow-up on this should be left to Mr. Kershaw to coordinate with his general safety program. Mr. Kershaw reported that Colonel Tyler will request the Oak Ridge fire chief to come here to make a survey of our fire fighting equipment.

4. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that so far no report on the water pressure in the sprinkler system had been submitted although originally requested last July. He recommended that further definite steps be taken to increase the water pressure in the sprinkler system.

5. The problem of machining of suballoy and magnesium was raised, and it was recommended that steps be taken to reduce the fire hazards in these operations as well as to provide separate storage space for magnesium spheres as requested by Mr. Long.

6. Mr. Lipkin reported on the ether extraction work being done by Mr. Wichers, and it was recommended that this operation be removed from Building M and placed in a single small building where it would not be a fire hazard to the rest of the Technical Area. Lipkin reported that there would be as much as 25 gallons of ether on hand during some phases of the operation.

7. General question of access to outlying areas on Sundays and after 5:30 p.m. was discussed. It was pointed out that at the present time most of the people on the Site are under the impression that it is perfectly safe to go

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anywhere after 5:30 and on Sundays, and that the west road is open to everybody at those times. It was also pointed out that one of the recent shots in Layo Canyon was made on Sunday, and a number of people were found in Pueblo Canyon, well within the danger area. It is to be expected that firing at the far points will be continued probably after 5:30 in the future. It is the recommendation of the Committee that one of two courses be adopted: either to stop all firing during specific hours, or restrict all firing areas at all times. In the event that the latter is adopted, Comdr. Bradbury recommended that the area be bounded by Los Alamos Canyon and Frijoles road, the eastern boundary fence and the west road, and Los Alamos, Pueblo, Bayo, and Rendija Canyons. This matter should be referred to the Director for decision.

8. Comdr. Bradbury reported on the recent explosion in the burning pit at S-Site. No one was hurt. It appeared that someone had put boosting charges in the pit, which is against regulations. Some of these had been previously removed. This pit is open to all persons and is outside the regular S-Site fence. It was Comdr. Bradbury's recommendation, approved by the Committee, that this pit be fenced and locked and that one person at S-Site be put in charge of it, and further, that the same procedure should be adopted at Anchor Ranch.

9. Comdr. Bradbury reported that his sub-committee had completed the inspection of all firing sites and that a report will be submitted to the Safety Committee for its recommendations for re-submission to the sites. In general, he said, only one site was in proper condition--P-Site. The Committee voted to commend Comdr. Bradbury's sub-committee for its prompt and efficient action.

10. Conditions at V-Site were brought up specifically in view of report of safety inspection submitted by Comdr. Bradbury, Sgt. Gilbert, and W. G. Marley. There is definite confusion as to safety requirements where transite is used as a back for space heaters. It was recommended that the site should be reinspected from an overall point of view.

11. Comdr. Bradbury raised the general question of overcrowding and hazardous packing of magazines at S-Site and Anchor Ranch. Definitely the Anchor Ranch magazines are not well packed and represent a hazard. Probably additional magazines are needed, and access roads need repair. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that this should come under the jurisdiction of the sub-committee, of which Mr. Kistiakowsky was asked to be chairman. The Committee discussed this question and determined that in view of the very great pressure of work now being placed upon Mr. Kistiakowsky that the entire question be taken over by Mr. Kershaw to submit a report and recommend procedures. Mr. Kershaw would have the assistance of the committee already appointed, which includes Mr. Kistiakowsky, Comdr. Birch, Lt. Hopper, Mr. Johns, and Mr. Marley.

12. The subject of lightning protection was raised by Mr. Kershaw. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Kershaw expressed the opinion that some of our present lightning protection systems may increase the hazard rather than reduce it. It was recommended that Mr. Kershaw take immediate steps to secure as much information on this problem as is available from outside sources such as the Army Corps of Engineers, E. I. Dupont, Mr. Workman of the University of New Mexico, and the National Forest Services. Further, that the services of an expert practical lightning protection man be secured to come here and make a survey of our problems and make specific recommendations. Mr. Kershaw also requested the help of some electrical engineer on the Project in coordinating information and recommendations.

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13. The condition of government vehicles was discussed, and it was the recommendation of the Committee that the Post secure a good brake testing machine immediately, some recognized standard method of eye test for drivers, and that all cars be tested for lights and other night services and that those which do not meet these tests be restricted by stickers or some other obvious sign to use during the daytime.

14. It is recommended that the sub-committee composed of Dr. Hempelmann and Mr. Wilson submit a report on the subject of re-use and location of contaminated instruments and materials. It is also recommended that Mr. Wilson be released from duty on this committee since the problems are primarily those of the chemistry division. In particular some steps should be taken to keep contaminated materials and instruments from being returned to general stock-rooms.

15. Mr. Dow reported on the construction at the tank site, stating that the tanks were completely welded with the exception of the vent pipes and gauges, but that necessity had arisen for painting the inside of the tanks to prevent corrosion. For the information of the Committee, Mr. Duffield has reported that the asphalt base paint had been tested by him and is satisfactory. The question of running a pipe line directly from D-Site to these tanks was also discussed, and Mr. Lipkin will look into this immediately.

16. The Committee requested a statement from the Director as to its responsibility with respect to operations at Trinity.

17. The following miscellaneous items were brought up:

a) No report has been received by the Committee as to whether the fire department has been adequately provided with smoke masks and extra clothing.

b) Fire door closures have never been completed and tied into the sprinkler system.

c) Mr. Mitchell reported briefly on arrangements for personnel protection in the event of a 600 lb. shot at Bayo Canyon.

d) Mr. Dow reported that the fluorine storage tank is being moved to a new specially constructed building on the southwestern edge of the Technical Area.

e) The question of inspection of first aid equipment was raised, and it was pointed out that Cpl. Mayers was much in need of additional transportation for the outlying sites.

The chairmanship of the Committee was handed over to Mr. Lipkin. The Committee will meet next on Wednesday, March 21.

- cc:
- Comdr. Birch                    Lt. Large
- Comdr. Bradbury                David Lipkin
- David Dow                        D. P. Mitchell
- Dr. L. Hempelmann               J. R. Oppenheimer
- Stanley Kershaw

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