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**BRIEFING FOR THE COLORADO DELEGATION**

An epidemiological study of the health and mortality of current and former workers with demonstrable deposition of plutonium is being designed at the present time. The desirability and broad outlines of such a study were discussed with supervisory medical personnel of several AEC contractor facilities and ERDA consulting experts at a meeting in Denver on February 28, 1975. The study is to be coordinated by the Medical Division of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and will involve the follow-up of workers of several contractor facilities located at Hanford, Rocky Flats, Los Alamos, Savannah River, Mound Laboratories and Oak Ridge. Several hundred such persons have been identified and will be studied along with appropriate control groups from the same plants. The study will include active workers, retired and other separated employees. The incidence of disease will be estimated from plant health records as well as questionnaires addressed to separated employees. The incidence of mortality due to specific diseases will be investigated through procedures used in a large health and mortality study conducted by ERDA over a period of several years.

Preliminary planning has been largely completed. Dr. George Hutchison, Harvard University epidemiologist, has participated in the development of the design of the study. A budget proposal has been received by BER and is now under consideration. We anticipate that staffing for the study will be started in July 1975 and that the study will be initiated some time during the second half of calendar year 1975.

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