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Department of Energy
Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

JAN 18 1979

William E. Mott, Acting Director, Division of
Environmental Control Technology, HQ

SMALL ANIMAL FACILITY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO - FORMERLY UTILIZED
MED/AEC SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM (FUSRAP)

Enclosed you will find a report detailing the findings of a search as part of the FUSRAP to locate the subject facility. As detailed in the report four areas of the University were reviewed as possible areas within the complex. However, it is concluded that the areas located were either razed or probably not related to the MED/AEC effort during the time. Based on the information provided in the report no further effort is planned by CH/ANL on the site.

Any questions you may have on this subject should be addressed to Edward J. Jascewsky on FTS 972-2253.

Original Signed by
Fred C. Nattnueller

Robert H. Bauer
Manager

SD:EJJ

Enclosure:
Investigation of Small
Animal Facility

CC: Mr. Andy Wallo, The Aerospace Corporation, w/encl.

ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

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Telephone 312/4972-3000

January 5, 1979

Manager, Chicago Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy
Argonne, IL 60439

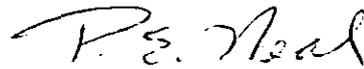
Attention: Mr. E. J. Jascewsky
Safety Division

Dear Sir:

Subject: INVESTIGATION OF SMALL ANIMAL FACILITY

Enclosed are three copies of a report, Investigation of Small Animal Facility, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois. This investigation was conducted by the Argonne National Laboratory, Health Physics Section as part of the Formerly Utilized MED/AEC Sites Remedial Action Program.

Sincerely,



P. E. Neal
Associate Director

In Triplicate

FORMERLY UTILIZED MED/AEC SITES

REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

INVESTIGATION

OF

SMALL ANIMAL FACILITY

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 19, 1978

Conducted by:

Argonne National Laboratory
MED/AEC Resurvey Group
Health Physics Section
Occupational Health & Safety Division

for the:

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PREFACE

This is one of a series of reports resulting from a program initiated in 1974 by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) for determination of the condition of sites formerly utilized by the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the AEC for work involving the handling of radioactive materials. Since the early 1940's, the control of 100 sites that were no longer required for nuclear programs has been returned to private industry or the public for unrestricted use. A search of MED and AEC records indicated that for some of these sites, documentation was insufficient to determine whether or not the decontamination work done at the time nuclear activities ceased is adequate by current guidelines.

This report contains the results of an investigation as to the existence and location of a site titled "Small Animal Facility".

The investigation was performed by the following Health Physics personnel of the Occupational Health and Safety Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois: R. A. Wynveen, W. H. Smith, C. B. Mayes, P. C. Gray, D. W. Reilly.

SMALL ANIMAL FACILITY

As a participant in the Department of Energy's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, the Argonne National Laboratory Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission Group, of the Health Physics Section, Occupational Health and Safety Division, was given a list that included a site titled "Small Animal Facility". There was no specific location given for the site, except that it was indicated to be somewhere on the University of Chicago Campus. Preliminary investigation revealed no area within the University of Chicago complex listed as a "Small Animal Facility". A more extensive investigation was then initiated that included contacting members of the University of Chicago faculty and support functions personnel, as well as former and present members of Argonne National Laboratory that may have had some knowledge of said facility. Results of this investigation revealed that of all the personnel contacted, not one individual recalled a facility titled "Small Animal Facility". The investigation did reveal four areas where some form of small animal experimentation was conducted during the Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission era.

The following is a list of the areas which were identified as being involved with some form of small animal research. A brief resume of what occurred at each area is provided from "best recollection" discussion with those familiar with each operation.

Site B

Site B, located at 6111 University, was a complex utilized by several divisions of Argonne National Laboratory, including the Biology Division. This building is known to have housed an animal facility that conducted research

involving the use of radionuclides, including the use of transuranic nuclides. The site was reported to have been razed in the mid 1950's. Currently, this site is an open sodded area.

Ellis Lab

The so called "Ellis Lab", located at 57th St. and Ellis, was a facility reported to be involved in the study of irradiated small animals. There is some disagreement among the "old timers" as to whether or not animals involved with radionuclides may have been temporarily housed at this site. There seems to be agreement that no primary research function, involving radionuclides, was routinely conducted at this site. The facility was reportedly razed in the late 1940's or early 1950's. Currently, this area is open exposed soil. A soil sample, which was collected from this area and analyzed, revealed no levels of radioactivity above those for background soil samples from that general area.

Billings Hospital

Portions of the 5th and 6th floors of Billings Hospital were reported to have been used as an animal research facility. Recollection of research being conducted within this area, indicated that ^{32}P was the only nuclide used. The Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission was not involved in this research activity. Offices now occupy the space reportedly utilized.

Zoller Research Facility

A group of small buildings located northwest of the Hinds Laboratory for Geophysical Sciences and listed on the University of Chicago map as the Zoller Research Facility, was believed to be involved, to some extent, with small animal research. This research was reported to have involved chemical toxicological experiments. The Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission, as reported, was not involved in this research.

Conclusions

From evidence accumulated thus far, it is not certain that any of the four areas described above, is in fact the "Small Animal Facility". Since two of the four subject areas have been razed, and the other two sites were reported to have not been involved in the Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission operations, there appears to be no cause for further investigation in these areas.

It should be noted that another possible explanation for the difficulty in locating the Small Animal Facility is that animal work may not have been involved as the title implies. During the early Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission era, it was common practice to assign code names to various types of research projects and facilities. The understanding of these codes was on a need to know basis. If the Small Animal Facility was a code name, it would require the knowledge of personnel directly involved, who knew the code, in order to definitely locate the site. To date, it has not been possible to locate such a person or persons. Therefore, the code concept is mere speculation.

Until such time that additional definitive information surfaces to clarify the Small Animal Facility, there is no need to continue the effort in the investigation.