AEC Radiation Protection Standards

The Atomic Energy Commission has issued a regulation, effective on 28 Feb., that establishes standards for the protection of atomic energy workers and the public against radiation hazards arising from activities licensed by the Commission.

The regulation was first published in July 1955 as a proposed rule. It has since been submitted for comment to many interested persons and organizations, including state governors and state health and labor commissioners, and the commission has had the benefit of numerous comments and suggestions. An Advisory Committee of State Officials, appointed by the commission, has twice met in Washington to consider and comment on the regulation.

The commission will continue to work closely with the states to seek their advice and keep them informed of commission action in the health and safety field and, when they request, to advise and assist the states on their related regulatory programs.

Standards are set up in the regulation for the handling of all radioactive materials subject to commission licensing—special nuclear materials such as uranium 233 and uranium 235, source materials such as natural uranium and thorium, and by-product materials (radioisotopes). Limits are prescribed governing exposure of workers to external radiation, concentrations of radioactive material which may be discharged into air and water, and disposal of radioactive wastes.

Other provisions of the regulation include requirements for surveys of radiation hazards by licensees, monitoring of workers, caution signs, labels, and signals, storage of licensed material and instruction of workers on safe procedures for handling and using licensed materials.

Permissible limits, which except for minor changes are the same as those contained in the earlier proposed regulation, agree substantially with the current recommendations of the National Committee on Radiation Protection in National Bureau of Standards Handbook 52, *Maximum Permissible Amounts of Radioisotopes in the Human Body and Maximum Permissible Concentrations in Air and Water,* and NBS Handbook 59, *Permissible Dose from External Sources of Ionizing Radiation.*

The National Committee on Radiation Protection has under review recommendations to limit cumulative exposures over periods of years. The commission is giving consideration to appropriate amendments to its regulations to deal with this cumulative exposure problem.

It is believed, on the basis of present knowledge, that the standards provide an adequate margin of safety for exposed persons. It is emphasized, however, that the standards are subject to change with the development of new knowledge, with significant increase in the average exposure of the whole population to radiation, and with further experience in administration of the regulatory program.

The new AEC regulation applies only to activities licensed by the commission. It does not cover radiation sources such as x-ray and radium. One of the purposes of the regulation, however, is to assure that exposures to radiation from licensed material, when added to exposures from unlicensed radiation sources possessed by a licensee, such as x-ray and radium, do not exceed the permissible limits.

Cold Spring Harbor Courses

The Biological Laboratory of the Long Island Biological Association at Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., will offer three specialized courses next summer that are designed to acquaint research workers with the most important techniques used in bacterial virus research, bacterial genetics, and genetics of fungi. The course in bacterial viruses, to be given by G. Streisinger, will run for 3 weeks beginning 17 June; the course on genetics of filamentous fungi (Neurospora and Aspergillus) will be given by R. W. Barratt and Etta Käfer for 4 weeks beginning 8 July, and the course in bacterial genetics, to be given by M. Demerec, Evelyn M. Witkin, and V. Bryson, is scheduled for 3 weeks beginning 5 Aug.

Heart Drug Evaluation Program

The U.S. Public Health Service has announced a grant of $575,000 to evaluate the effectiveness of drugs in treating heart disease. This is the largest research grant of its kind ever made by the National Heart Institute. The grant was made to Alan E. Treloar, director of research of the American Hospital Association, to carry on a nation-wide program that will coordinate the activities of a number of research teams. The initial study will be concerned with the problem of hypertension.

According to present plans, an advisory board of eminent medical research workers and clinicians will be responsible for establishing guiding principles for the program and making broad policy decisions. This advisory board is expected to include a representative of the Committee on Research of the Council of Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association and also of the American Heart Association.

A central staff with headquarters in Chicago will include a clinician and biostatistician who will coordinate the activities of the project and provide administrative and biostatistical services for participating investigators. A technical committee, composed of one representative from each of the hospitals and clinical research laboratories collaborating in the program, will serve as a means of constant communication between the various research teams and will determine the details of research procedure.

Fire at Hungarian Museum

According to a refugee from Budapest, the Hungarian National Museum was largely burned during the recent revolution. The following groups of specimens were completely destroyed: mollusks, Acarina, Orthoptera, neuropteroid insects, Diptera, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and large mammal skeletons. The famous Horvath Heteroptera collection was partly destroyed. Coleoptera and Lepidoptera were largely undamaged.

ACS Dexter Award

The Division of History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society is asking for nominees to be considered for the 1957 Dexter award in the history of chemistry, which is administered by the division. The award will be made on the basis of services that have advanced the history of chemistry in any of the following ways: by publication of an important book or article; by the furtherance of the teaching of the history of chemistry; by significant contributions to the bibliography of the history of chemistry; or by meritorious services over a long period of time which have resulted in the advancement of the history of chemistry. All pertinent information concerning nominees should be sent *before 10 Mar.* to the secretary of the division, Sidney M. Edelstein, Dexter Chemical Corporation, 819 Edgewater Rd., New York 59, N.Y.

NBC Educational TV Programs

All 22 noncommercial educational television stations in this country have agreed to present three series of programs on mathematics, music, and American government. They will be produced by the National Broadcasting Company.

The programs, which begin in March, will be transmitted live from New York to the educational stations over N.B.C.'s regular network facilities. Stations that are unable to televise the programs live will resort to kinescope film recordings