

Lastly, I think it is important to note the fact that we have had the continued observation and cognizance, and the support, of an informed congressional committee, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

The National Academy of Sciences, and its constituent organizations such as their Earth Sciences Division (we were one of the agencies instrumental in establishing this group, their Committee on Oceanography, their Committee on Sanitary Engineering and Environment have been consulted and involved. By utilizing these competencies we obtained significant additional ability to cope with our problems.

With that, Mr. Chairman—I am sorry the summaries took as long as they did—I hope we have given you a reasonably good idea of our participation in and contribution to this environmental pollution control situation.

Mr. DADDARIO. First of all I would like to say that in that part of your statement which refers to thermal effects of steam electric generating plants, Senator Muskie also will have hearings on that in the near future. We will look to them for the development of that particular aspect.

Dr. LIEBERMAN. It was for that reason that I skipped this.

Mr. DADDARIO. We think it is important for congressional committees to coordinate their activities and not run one over the other, and we can be helpful in that regard.

We are talking about the preventive techniques you developed. How do you go about obtaining the independent assessments and reviews of these procedures when most of the knowledgeable people involved are working within the AEC program? Who arbitrates? How do you handle that part of it?

Dr. LIEBERMAN. I think there are at least two things that might be said here, Mr. Chairman. First of all, as you know, there is a regulatory side of the Atomic Energy Commission which is physically separated from us. They are in another building in Bethesda and we are out at Germantown. Indeed they are independent. I can speak from direct experience in working with them.

However, we do work with them as they discharge their responsibilities in controlling the industry and granting licenses for nuclear powerplants and fuel reprocessing plants. We get from them the kinds of questions that they feel need answers in order for them to carry out their responsibilities. I think this is one way in which we get this independent input and assessment.

Another very important way is one I alluded to very quickly. When we have gone over to other agencies like the Public Health Service or the Geological Survey or the Bureau of Mines we have essentially asked them to tell us what are the problems we will have to contend with here? We are not in the business of telling them how to do their geology or meteorology.

By doing this we have also been provided an independent assessment of our activities.

The third one would be in dealing with organizations like the National Academy of Sciences, an authoritative group to which we have looked to review our research and development program and to help us identify requirements in an independent manner.