

From: SAN BRUNO ARCHIVE

Date Copied/Mailed: 3/16/2003
HPS-HRA-408

Copier: Kenneth Baugh
Name

DOCUMENT



Achieve File ID: 181-58-A3221

Title: Isotope Storage building

Serial No: _____

Pages: 2 + schematic

Notes: _____

SAN FRANCISCO NAVAL SHIPYARD
SAN FRANCISCO 24, CALIFORNIA

JJ46-17(78688)
(958)

18 MAY 1950

~~RESTRICTED~~
RESTRICTED

From: Commander, San Francisco Naval Shipyard
To: Chief, Bureau of Ships

Subj: Isotope Storage Facility; request for approval to construct

Encl: (1) P. W. Drawing 16142-44

1. From the inception of the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL) at this activity, various quantities of radioactive substances have been required to prosecute properly many research problems within the assigned program of the Laboratory.

From 1947 to date, radioisotopes have been received in various quantities from the AEC, during which time storage was improvised in lead caves in many miscellaneous locations such as abandoned head facilities, locker rooms, outside work sheds and laboratories. Preliminary processing of isotopes where applicable, was accomplished in the "semi-hot" laboratory in Building 506.

2. The planned program of the NRDL will require increasing quantities of radioactive shipments from AEC and, in addition, there is a requirement for increasingly high intensity sources for use in instrument evaluation and calibration.

3. A survey during the month of April by the Laboratory's Health Physics Branch revealed that the radiation in the room outside of the "hot" laboratory, located in Building 506, has risen to a level in excess of the normal permissible limit for continuous exposure of personnel (0.3 r. per week). This signified that isotopes stored inside of the "hot" laboratory were raising the total background to a level such that the intensity of radiation is in excess of AEC permissible limits at distances of 15 to 20 feet. In addition to the above situation, the general background of areas within Building 506 is fast approaching maximum permissible levels. With the increasing use of isotopes by the Laboratory, such a condition cannot be tolerated and will not be permitted for more than short periods by the AEC inspectors.

4. In view of the above condition caused by the diversity and widespread use of such radioactive materials, a study was undertaken from which it was determined that the most practicable way to meet the necessary requirements was to centralize radioactive substances in a single specially equipped building.

8846-17

5. The need for a facility equipped to satisfy shielding, handling and storage requirements was recognized six (6) months ago at which time preparation of plans was commenced and has now crystallized to the point that preliminary drawings have been prepared (enclosure (1)) from which detailed plans and specifications for construction of an adequate facility can be derived.

6. The following is a breakdown of cost for erecting subject facility and includes an estimated overhead cost for accomplishment under W-C contract.

Labor	\$9,900
Material	<u>8,355</u>
Total	\$18,255

7. It is the understanding of this Shipyard that the Public Works Officer, Twelfth Naval District, can prepare detailed plans and specifications and accomplish the construction by lump sum contract, upon receipt of approval of the project by the Bureau.

8. Authority is therefore requested by 15 June 1950 for the erection of an Isotopes Storage vault shown by enclosure (1) in order that construction can be completed prior to 30 September 1950. It is further requested that in the absence of funds immediately available in the Bureau for this purpose, the cost of the proposed structure be chargeable to research projects and allotments held by ERDL which would be served by the isotopes storage, the total costs being prorated among the appropriate projects in proportion to the degree of benefit attributable to each.

B. B. MANSEAU

Copy to:
12th ND
BuBooks