

NOTICES

NOVEL METHODS OF ISOTOPE SEPARATION

Procedures for Reports on Research

The AEC has reviewed its declassification actions in the field of isotope separation to assure that they are consistent with the policy expressed in section 141 of the Atomic Energy Act, and to determine whether any further actions to assure the common defense and security or to permit and encourage the free interchange of ideas and criticisms are now appropriate in the light of the current state of the relevant technology. In this review the Commission has focused on the classification status of methods of isotope separation other than gaseous diffusion and gas centrifugation. In 1967, the Commission declassified all research and development work concerning any such other method of isotope separation until that method has a reasonable potential for the separation of practical quantities of special nuclear material. The public was notified of this action by a statement published in 32 F.R. 20868.

The Commission has reaffirmed that determination as best meeting current needs. It has also noted that as unclassified research and development on any such other method of isotope separation proceeds, there may come a stage at which the researcher will need classification advice in order to assure that classified work is performed only under proper security controls, and that correct and timely classification determinations are made, so that any restricted data involved would be protected in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act. Therefore, any person engaging in research and development on such other methods of isotope separation should notify the Commission when, in his opinion, the process has demonstrated, through experiments in the laboratory or through theoretical studies or calculations, that the process can separate uranium isotopes, so the Commission can give him appropriate classification and reporting guidance. Prompt guidance will be given. Reports should be submitted to Director, Division of Classification, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. 20545.

Any researcher who believes his work may have proceeded to the point where it is no longer unclassified should pro-

ceed in accordance with 10 CFR Part 85, especially § 95.22.

Dated at Germantown, Md., this 28th day of July 1972.

W. E. McCook,
Secretary of the Commission.

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