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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
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INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS  
No. 17, APRIL 12, 1949  
Tel. No. Plaza 7-3600, Ext. 259

FOR RELEASE  
THURSDAY P. M.  
APRIL 14, 1949

The United States Atomic Energy Commission has completed arrangements with the Federal Works Agency for the use of the Magnesium Reduction Plant (Plancor 659) at Luckey, Ohio, for the production of beryllium metal and compounds, Wilbur E. Kelley, Manager of New York Operations of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, announced today.

Under the arrangement with the Federal Works Agency, the Commission acquires the use of certain plant buildings and equipment for a five year period, with option for renewal. The Luckey facilities comprise 200 acres of land with 16 plant buildings, including a water plant, laboratory, control plant, and smelting building. During World War II the plant was engaged in the production of magnesium metal.

Negotiations are under way with the Brush Beryllium Company, Cleveland, Ohio, which formerly produced beryllium metal and compounds for the Commission in its Lorain, Ohio, plant, for the operation of the Luckey facility under contract to the Commission.

Beryllium, the second lightest metal, has important application in the field of nuclear energy. It can be used, like graphite or heavy water, as a moderator in an atomic reactor.

"Because of the reported toxicity of beryllium, we are taking every possible safeguard in the operation of the Luckey plant," Mr. Kelley said. "The processes involved will incorporate new engineering and production methods which have been developed as a result of previous work with beryllium. The health hazard which now appears to exist in connection with the production of beryllium has had an important bearing on the design of the Luckey plant, which will be provided with the most modern ventilation and exhaust gas cleaning equipment. All exhaust gases from this plant will be treated in such a way as to remove contamination."

Modification of existing structures at Luckey will commence immediately. Installation of new equipment will begin in May and production operations will get under way in August.

**Note: Actual operations began August 3. Brush Beryllium Company is the contractor.**