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IN.1

MONTHLY STATUS AND PROGRESS REPORT

FOR APRIL 1948

A Report Submitted

by the

Office of New York Directed Operations

this page only

May 5, 1948

W. B. Kelley, Manager

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II. PRODUCTION

The Joslyn Manufacturing and Supply Company continued to supply the bulk of uranium rolled in the alpha phase, to be used as feed material for the Hanford piles. The Simonds Saw and Steel Company has been contacted relative to contracting for long-term rolling operations. A Letter Contract, effective May 3, 1948, has been executed with Singmaster and Breyer, Engineers, making available their services as the design contractor for a new uranium plant at Mallinckrodt Chemical Works. The installation of facilities for the manufacture of brown oxide at the Harshaw Chemical Company is proceeding on schedule. It is planned to purchase and equip ten railroad freight cars for the transport of pitchblende ore and radium cake. An option has been requested of the Department of the Army, Chief of Engineers, on a building which appears suitable for use as a production control laboratory. The recovery of uranium from scrap residues, being carried out by the Vitro Manufacturing Company, will proceed at a rate of about 20,000 pounds of U_3O_8 per month; this increased production will result in the realization of considerable savings effected by lower production costs.

During April, full-scale operation was begun at the beryllium metal casting plant of the Beryllium Corporation in Reading, Pennsylvania. The beryllium metal pilot plant of the Brush Beryllium Company and the beryllium metal flake pilot plant of the Clifton Products Co. were both placed in operation. A new contract has been negotiated with the Brush Beryllium Co. for the production of beryllium metal at its Lorain plant during April, May, and June, 1948. Beryllium requirement and production schedules were submitted to Washington for approval, and a similar program for zirconium metal was authorized and undertaken. Dry runs with normal uranium revealed some technical difficulties and health hazards in the proposed process for extrusion of uranium-beryllium fuel rods for the high flux pile. The new metallurgical laboratory of the Sylvania Electric Products Co. at Bayside, L.I., was completed.

Alpha Rolling of Hanford Feed Materials

During February, NYDO was notified that Hanford would require uranium rolled in the alpha phase as feed material for the piles. The Joslyn Manufacturing and Supply Company, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, was equipped to produce such material, whereas the acceptability of other producers of rolled metal had to be determined. The Joslyn Manufacturing and Supply Company therefore continued to supply the bulk of metal rolled in the alpha phase, and they expect to roll approximately 90 tons of Hanford recast metal during the month of May. Arrangements are being made, however, for the Simonds Saw and Steel Company to roll, during the month of May, the metal produced during late March and early April.

Contract negotiations have been completed with the Pressed Steel Car Company for the purchase of ten railroad freight cars. These cars will be outfitted with protective shielding for the transport of such radioactive materials as pitchblende ore and radium cake. It is felt that the acquisition of these special cars will enable NYDO to maintain high safety and health standards in the shipment of materials to and from its contractors and Middlesex Warehouse, and to comply with the regulations set up by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Production Control Laboratory

NYDO has been in need of adequate chemical laboratory facilities to enable it to control the quality of the materials produced and processed in the production plants for which it is responsible, and to maintain the analytical development programs necessary for the efficient and economical operation of these plants.

A proposal has been submitted to Washington for authorization to proceed with the acquisition, by purchase or construction, of chemical laboratory facilities and for authorization to operate such a laboratory directly rather than by contract. In the meantime, inspection has been made of a building available as a possible production control laboratory in Linden, New Jersey. A 30-60 day option on this building has been requested.

Recovery of Uranium from Scrap

Operations for the recovery of uranium from scrap residues are now being carried out by the Vitro Manufacturing Company at their Canonsburg plant. The rate of operation will be approximately 20,000 pounds of U_3O_8 per month for the period April-through-June, 1948. This increased production has been made possible by an increased stockpile of scrap residues. It will result in the realization of considerable savings effected by lower production costs.

Beryllium Metal Casting Plant

In the March report, it was stated that the AEC beryllium metal casting plant constructed at The Beryllium Corporation in Reading, Pennsylvania, would commence full-scale operation early in April. The work to be performed was the casting of beryllium metal billets for subsequent extrusion into shapes for the Clinton High Flux Pile.

During April, an initial contract for operation of this casting plant was executed with The Beryllium Corporation, and production operations at the plant were begun. A member of the staff of the Metallurgical Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was available at the casting plant to instruct personnel of the Beryllium