To: Distribution

From: P. N. Haubenreich

Subject: Request for Suggestions for Final Operation and Shutdown of the MSRE

Plans are being made to conclude operation of the MSRE during the first half of FY-1970. In view of the budget situation and other needs of the program, MSRP and ORNL management have concluded that the utility of the proposed operations with fluoroborate coolant and with plutonium and thorium in the fuel does not justify the costs involved.

At present the plans are firm only through the current run, which is scheduled to continue for another 80 equivalent full-power days to consume enough $^{233}$U for accurate measurement of the capture-to-fission ratio. Unless there are unexpected delays, this should be finished in June.

We solicit your suggestions for experiments during and after the $^{233}$U burnup run. Since this will be the last operation of a molten-salt reactor for some years to come, we want to be sure that no worthwhile and feasible experiment or observation has been overlooked before the MSRE is shut down. Although no firm shutdown date has been set, the end of September is probably the latest that could be considered.

After the end of nuclear operation we will remove some materials and equipment and perform some inspections. If you have ideas on what should be done along this line, we would like to have them also.

Since we must prepare a budget proposal very soon, your suggestions (in writing) are needed right away.

Paul N. Haubenreich

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