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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

CIVIL DIVISION

*GAO 00451*

*092117*

JAN 20 1970



LM092117

Dear Dr. Branscomb:

*DLG 05936*

We have completed a survey of the operations of the Center for Radiation Research (CRR), National Bureau of Standards. Our survey, which was made pursuant to the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921 (31 U.S.C. 53), and the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950 (31 U.S.C. 67), was conducted at the Bureau's headquarters at Gaithersburg, Maryland.

During our survey we gathered information on the cost and utilization of the four major facilities of the CRR; the nuclear reactor, the linear accelerator (linac), the electron synchrotron, and the isotope separator. Our survey also included a review of applicable records, discussions with Bureau officials, and a physical inspection of CRR facilities.

Our survey revealed that the major facilities of CRR had not been efficiently utilized. We were informed by Bureau officials that the principal factors preventing fuller utilization at the time of our survey were (1) personnel restrictions imposed by Section 201 of Public Law 90-364, and (2) current budget limitations.

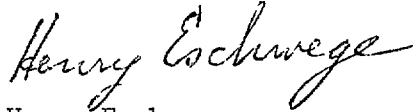
Section 201 of Public Law 90-364 was repealed on July 22, 1969. Also, our survey revealed that the Bureau has recognized the problem of underutilization of CRR facilities and a recent increase in the allocation of operating funds to the CRR has resulted in increased utilization of the facilities. For example, the two major facilities of the CRR, the reactor and linac, are now operating 24 hours per day for 4 days a week. As part of our future reviews we plan to again review the extent that CRR facilities are being utilized.

Our survey was greatly facilitated by the assistance and cooperation given our representatives by the Bureau staff. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this cooperation and to advise you that no additional work or reporting is contemplated at this time.

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Copies of this letter are being sent to the Assistant Secretary for Administration and to the Director, Office of Audits, Department of Commerce.

Sincerely yours,



Henry Eschwege  
Associate Director

Dr. Lewis M. Branscomb, Director  
National Bureau of Standards  
Department of Commerce

AGC 00126