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To: Dennis Faulk/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

cc:

Subject: WINWORD8

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Request for Public Comment

My name is Edward G. Burnet Sr.; I started to work in the 300 area in 1948. Then I went to work at B reactor some time in 1953. I was sent to 105 B area from 300 area. I worked in the 300 area for some 3 years before leaving and going to the 200 area for a short time and then returned to 300 area.

Mr. Hal Layborn, my supervisor, he received me there at B area for my introducing to my new job. I was very impressed at the size of the building and all of its contents and surroundings.

Eventually I was trained in all the fields required for operators. I have spent several hours seated at the console in the control room. I was trained to control the various systems and manipulate the 9 horizontal control rods in manner to control the actual neutrons that make the reactor function. At that time it was hard for me to actually visualize what was really taking place inside of this large steel covered structure. At that time we still had very tight security and were not to talk too much about the areas.

I can recall a few names of persons that I was either working with or around, Andy Olds was one of the first Tech grads that came there to be trained in some field or another. He and I got along very well. Frank Fairweather was our Chief operator. H. K. George, Monroe Birdsong, Al Samson, Kenny Stoker, and there were others but right now I can not recall all of them. One thing we all have to realize at this time there are very few of us old timers around any longer.

While I was at B reactor I had the opportunity to go over to see all the construction going on at the beginning of C reactor. My supervisor noticed many times that I was interested in the new reactor. Later on there was a call for operators to have the opportunity to go to C reactor for the Start-Up. It happened that I had the chance to go. I spent quit a bit of my time making up diagrams and drawings of all the piping and lay out of the building for my own use. My supervisor noticed what all I was doing and asked me if I would like to make-up drawing for the training program. I did just that. This kept me off the front face, from having to help charge all of the tubes in the reactor. I had spent some time at C reactor.

Then came the K reactors. Well it was not easy for me to keep going over there and watching the construction of this project. I wanted to watch this construction bad enough that I would actually go out there on my own time with security permission to do so. It came a day again when they wanted people to go to the 105 KW area. I again volunteered and was again accepted to go. The same thing happened as in C area. I was assigned the job of making training drawings for all new personnel.

Well now I had also the opportunity again to go to see another rector constructed from the ground up. I spent as much time as I could at the construction of the 105 KE. Same thing again with the drawings I had made at 105 KW. Well there were hardly any changes to be made in all the drawings, so we used them and corrected them as we saw fit.

After working on the project for some 20 plus years I had the opportunity for a voluntary reduction of forces. In 1968 I took advantage of this and went on to continue my hobby in aviation. I was already involved in aviation sense 1937 and was making my

hobby into a business venture.

I had started a part time flying business in 1961 at the Richland Airport and continued until we started the Richland Flying Service. I was the Vice-Pres., Manager and Owner of the company for many years and then sold out in 1978.

Well enough for history of me. I would like very much to be able to be a part of the clean up of B reactor and open a great deal more of it to the public to see. When the last time I was there and took a tour I was quit impressed with all the things that took place to open it up to the public and the display of many items that was used to work on the reactor. Many of the things there were not the same as I was familiar with due to changes that take place all the time.

I would like to be able to go to the rector and some day go to the Wash Pad, Storage area, rear face, transfer area, XO levels on the far side and underneath the reactor where the ball 3X system was installed. Also the plenum chamber area where the air was forced up from the bottom of the rear face of the rector and out the vent stack. This area at one time was involved when they flushes a tube of radiated slugs to the discharged basin and one of the 4 inch slugs hit the rear face wall and then bounced back into the rear face nozzles and it hung up there for some time. This slug was resting on the 04 rear cross header and leaning against the rear face shielding.

The rest of this incident would will take quit a bit to explain about what all took place and the results of what happened due to a very, very high radiation dose received by my supervisor who was with me at the time. I did not look at the source directly as he did. I called down to the control room and told them to bring me one of the mirrors off the wall in the rest room. I crawled down and picked it up and then crawled back up to where we would be able to see where the slug was hung up. I tilted the mirror in a manner as to look down the cross header and not get a high dose from direct radiation. I could see the slug and the way it was leaning. We all then went back to the control room and I drew a picture of the way the slug was positioned and about where it was vertically.

They then went over to the 200 area and picked up the little robot, The Monster, they called it. They positioned it so it would go into the rear face and enter onto the rear elevator at the lower level. Some one who was operating the monster positioned it so as to go in and clamp onto the 4-inch slug and then drop it into the basin of water below where the other slugs would go. Well at that time all the radiation monitoring systems went to "0" for radiation readings of the rear face area because that 4 inch slug was the only one that created the problem. From then on there was a new procedure made up of how to discharge tubes with the so-called hi pressure Flush System.

There are many reasons I would like to see B reactor open to the public in all fashions because I can recall so many things and I wish I was able to tell people or visitors about certain thing that took place when I was there.

There are a few of us who lived in Richland and many other places who are members of the B Reactor organization. I have worked or was involved with all of the reactors in Hanford Project in some way or another.

I want to agree with all 9 items listed for the B Reactor Museum restoration.

Sincerely;

Edward G. Burnet Sr.