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Los Alamos
Santa Fe, New Mexico
P. O. Box 1663
May 21, 1943

FINAL DETERMINATION
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L. M. Redman
JAN 23 1981

Memorandum to: Brigadier General L. R. Groves

From: W. S. Parsons and J. R. Oppenheimer

We have, during the past days, considered in close consultation with the other members of the laboratory staff, the requirements for technical buildings and for housing, which the expansion of our program involves. In some respects, the requests for authorization for building which we are herewith presenting, are incomplete, since we do not have reliable estimates of additional post personnel and since we are forced to estimate without sure foundation the proportion of married and single personnel which we will be able to maintain. However, the technical requirements for buildings, and the approximate breakdown on housing seems to us sound, and we present it herewith for your authorization.

I. Technical Buildings

In addition to those previously discussed, namely, a warehouse and a service laboratory for X, there are five technical buildings which we should like to erect in the immediate future.

A. An office and administrative building similar in general design to the present office building, and located immediately to the west of the present building.

B. A service laboratory for ordnance, ~~Army~~ arming design, etc. which should have the dimensions 200x40 feet [illegible] drafting room and future office space on second story and should be located immediately to the west of the new office building.

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C. A shop building for the engineering and ordnance program, which should have the same overall dimensions as the shop building now in existence, and should be located immediately to the west of the engineering laboratory. 400 #/□ floor load

D. A chemistry and metallurgy laboratory, which would have about ten thousand feet of floor space, with dimensions approximately 80x120, located some hundred feet southwest of the present shop building, and which may, unless analyses of local dust are unexpectedly favorable, have to be made dust-proof.

E. A bomb-proof control, storage and service building for the ordnance and explosive range, with dimensions 25x100 feet, and heavy, reinforced concrete walls and roof.

You may be assured that we will keep the complications of these buildings down to a minimum, and that we will try to incorporate in them those improvements in design that we have learned by experience are of advantage since the present buildings were erected.

II. Housing

The reviewing committee estimated that the ordnance and engineering staff, including administrative, secretarial and assistant staff, would reckon to about 200. We believe that it will be possible for us to carry out the work effectively with 175. Metallurgical and chemical developments will probably need in addition [illegible] people, 25 for each. Approximately five theoretical and [illegible] experimental physicists should be added to the present staff in these fields, and the shops and secretarial staff, and to some slight extent, the administrative staff, also need to be increased.

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From this we concluded that the total addition in personnel upon commitments already outstanding, will be almost 300. Of these, approximately 75 will be technical assistants, whom we would hope to get single. Our experience with scientific personnel, machinists, draftsmen, etc., indicates a somewhat higher than two to one ratio of married to single personnel. From this we concluded that we shall have to provide housing for 175 married and 130 single people. At the present time, taking into account our commitments on personnel, and the authorized housing and construction, we are short a little over 20 housing units for married couples. We should therefore like to request for technical personnel alone the construction of the following:

60-2 bedroom apartments

60-3 bedroom apartments

70-one bedroom apartments in multiple units, and, if possible, with reduced kitchen

Dormitory space for 130.

These estimates have been made in the conviction that all building needed at Los Alamos should be authorized at this time, and that no further building will be possible. Estimates which are admittedly tentative that have been given us by Major Stevens and Colonel Harman indicate that the post will require 20-one bedroom apartments and 10-2 and 10-3 bedroom apartments, and dormitory space for 50 persons, in order to provide for the expansion of post personnel.

Certain further building will be required; for instance, a new mess, with a capacity at least as great as that which we now have, a new commissary, and certain other buildings which the post administration regards as necessary, but which probably do not have the high urgency of the other buildings specified above. We are transmitting to you a memorandum from

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Major Stevens and Colonel Harman which outlines their ideas on the subject. These seem to us essentially sound.

It has seemed to us desirable to put the proving ground as near to Los Alamos as was compatible with safety and access, and for this reason we are recommending that the proving ground be established at Anchor Ranch, which is five miles by road, and a little over two miles by air line, from the nearest point in Los Alamos. We should like to reserve the site lower down in Pajarito Canyon at the Pajarito Guard station for future work, in case it becomes necessary for us to operate with very large charges. The following developments are necessary for this proving ground:

1. The construction of the bomb-proof building described above
2. Telephone line, probably three or five miles in length, connecting Los Alamos with the proving ground, and with guard house on the main highway
3. Property survey or a region approximately two miles in radius, surrounding the proving ground
4. Appropriate steps for fencing, posting and guarding access to the proving ground
5. Short access road from the highway to the bomb-proof building.

We should like to have authorization for this work, and should like to postpone all developments at the Pajarito Guard station, except the actual acquisition of the territory.

The outlines of this building program have been discussed with representatives of the Manhattan District, the Albuquerque District, and the contractor, and all are prepared to expedite the working as soon as authorization is received. It is urgently requested that procurement for this project be

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granted an A-1 preference rating on the ground that without this, the completion date for the work will be considerably later than October 1. We recognize that for reasons of security, it has seemed inexpedient to grant so high a preference rating to other branches of this project. It would seem, however, that the importance of the Los Alamos Project must already be completely clear, and that nothing--and this is the opinion of our contractor and District Engineer--could so greatly expedite the completing of this project as the raising of the preference rating.

cc: Commander Parsons

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