

Memo from  
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To:  
Dr J J Cohen

MAY 25 1971

EPA radiation standards.

It seems to me that the "standards" are rapidly becoming irrelevant to the realities of regulations concerning evident uses of nuclear energy-- to the point that biologists have little more to contribute.

In so far as "as low as practicable" in fact becomes a small part of the fluctuations in natural background (and I believe we are plainly headed that way now), the focus of our attention ought to be the tradeoffs in

- a) medical uses of radiation, and
- b) population-siting considerations

I may be wrong, but I am confident that the "present standards" will be a moot question long before Nov. 4.

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Thank you for the invitation; I don't think I can make the meeting (even to expound the position just stated).

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