and a technical library. Over two hundred members of the Missile Development Division of the NBS will move their families to Corona during the next few months. Building materials and credit restrictions have been eased to permit family housing construction.

AEC NEWS

ATOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY INDUSTRY

The Atomic Energy Commission has announced that negotiations with four groups of business and industrial firms to study the practicability of industrial development and operation of nuclear reactors for producing power and fissionable materials are nearing completion and that no further negotiations will be started for the time being. Consideration of additional proposals will be postponed, the AEC said, in view of the present heavy commitments of its technical personnel and its laboratories and contractors. Agreements have already been signed with two of the groups: the Dow Chemical Company and the Detroit Edison Company, and the Commonwealth Edison Company and the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois. A third group, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Bechtel Corporation of San Francisco, has indicated its acceptance of the agreement with the AEC. Negotiations are continuing with the Monsanto Chemical Company and its associate, the Union Electrical Company of Missouri.

In general, the terms of the agreements already executed provide that the companies will make a survey of the Commission's reactor development activities to determine the economic and technical feasibility of their designing, constructing, and operating a nuclear reactor to produce materials and power. The studies will also determine the research and development work needed, if any, before such a reactor project can be undertaken, and the companies will offer recommendations concerning such a project in reports to the Commission, as well as their opinions regarding industry's role in undertaking and carrying it out.

These study projects, the Commission emphasized, do not include a special proposal by the Bendix Aviation Corporation of Detroit for study of an isotope-producing reactor to be built with private funds. The Bendix proposal is now in a preliminary discussion stage.

THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S REPORT

In late June the AEC released a formal report submitted on March 28th by the three-men ad hoc advisory committee on cooperation between the Commission and the electric power industry (defined as comprising publicly or privately owned utilities which produce or distribute electricity for public use). The committee, which was set up by the AEC in the summer of 1949, was headed by Philip Sporn, president of the American Gas and Electric Company; other members were E. W. Morehouse of the General Public Utilities Corporation and Walter Seymour, at present advisor on power problems to the Economic Cooperation Administration. In making its survey, the ad hoc committee held numerous discussions with the Commission and members of its staff and visited atomic energy installations at the Argonne, Oak Ridge, and Brookhaven National Laboratories, the Hanford Works, the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory at Schenectady, and the Bettis Field Laboratory at Pittsburgh.

No valid judgment can yet be made, the committee's report emphasized, as to whether and on what scale nuclear reactors will ultimately contribute to energy resources. "Nevertheless," the report continued, "our own observations, reinforced by recent pronouncements of the AEC, convince us that the prospects of an important new source of power within the next decades are robust enough to warrant a strong present and continuing interest on the part of the electric power industry." Commercial feasibility of atomic power, the committee noted, depends largely on the AEC's nuclear reactor program, which for the most part is still in the research and pilot plant stage.

In its report, the ad hoc committee made a number of recommendations for continued studies of areas of mutual interest to the industry and the Commission. In particular, the report urged the formation of a permanent advisory committee representing the industry, with the suggestion that its first assignment be to provide organized power industry assistance to the various Commission projects in identifying the places where industry personnel could be helpful and to locate the personnel within industry who might be detailed to fulfill these needs.

TEACHERS AND ENGINEERS

SCIENCE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University have announced plans for a joint five-year program aimed at increasing the number of broadly trained science and mathematics teachers available to secondary schools. Under the new Harvard-MIT curriculum, beginning next September, young men and women will be trained for science and mathematics teaching in high schools and junior colleges; their course will lead to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in General Science at MIT and Master of Arts in Teaching at Harvard.

"At present," said the official announcement of the program, "the production of teachers of high caliber and adequate training falls far short of the demand, particularly in the various areas of science and mathematics. There is every indication that this situation will grow more acute in the next decade. The project is intended to help alleviate this shortage by increasing the number of able teachers who are qualified to an exceptional degree, both in the breadth of their outlook and in the excellence of their professional training."

The Harvard degree of Master of Arts in Teaching is designed to give preparation for classroom teaching positions. It is usually awarded to college graduates who complete a year of study at the Graduate School of Education. An integrated five-year course of study,