It is anticipated that the homogeneous reactor experiments will lead directly to the design of a reactor capable of supplying Los Alamos with power, and that a practical package power unit capable of easy transportation to remote areas will also result.

AEC Actions

Regulations governing the distribution of reactor-produced radioisotopes, domestic and foreign, were liberalized by the Atomic Energy Commission last month. Except for export to Soviet-bloc countries, radioisotopes having atomic numbers from 3 to 83 can now be shipped directly from production and distribution centers in the United States to persons abroad. It is no longer required that special representatives be appointed in the US by foreign governments for such transactions, nor is it now necessary that foreign users report at AEC request on the results of use of radioactive materials shipped to their countries. Provision is made for US agents to apply for licenses to export other by-product materials and to export radioisotopes to Soviet-bloc countries in the event the AEC feels that the proposed export is not "inimical to the common defense and security". The revision also has the effect of simplifying the procedures governing domestic distribution of radioisotopes and of raising the limit on quantities of radioactive materials available to each user under general license.

The AEC regulation for licensing reactors and other facilities, first announced a year ago as a proposed rule, was finally put into effect on February 18th. Two classes of licenses may be issued under the regulation: "class 103" licenses issued for facilities found by the AEC to be "of practical value for industrial or commercial purposes", and "class 104" licenses for reactors for use in medical therapy or in research and development. They may be issued for periods up to 40 years.

The nuclear reactor at Brookhaven National Laboratory is now being operated entirely as a declassified facility. Heretofore, research by persons lacking AEC clearance has been restricted to its west face, which was declassified in 1951. The reactor can support some 70 simultaneous experiments, and uncleared scientists are now able to have access to the medical, biological, and engineering facilities at the top of the reactor as well as to the pneumatic tube system on the north face where short-lived isotopes are produced.

Summer Offerings

The University of Chicago will be the scene of a research institute for cooperative emulsion work during July and August, 1956. The institute will be sponsored jointly by the National Science Foundation and the University of Chicago. Its prime purpose will be to assist colleges in setting up a research program of their own in a field of physics in which the use of nuclear emulsions as a research tool is important. Introductory instruction will be offered with special emphasis on high-energy physics. In addition, a number of seminars will be conducted for discussing in detail the various experimental techniques used in research with nuclear photoplates. Special demonstrations are planned for inspecting original plates containing nuclear events or elementary particles of special interest. The laboratory instruction will cover the various aspects of emulsion techniques such as grain counting, scattering, particle identification, track following through pellicles, delta-ray counting, etc. Participants who are in possession of a scanning microscope are urged to take it along to Chicago since this would greatly facilitate the work of the Institute.

There will be stipends of a maximum amount of $900 for a two month period available to about a dozen participants. In general, participation is expected either for a two-month period or a period during the two months most suitable to the applicant. The participants will be chosen by a Steering Committee having national interests.

Those who wish to participate are asked to submit applications containing the following information: (1) curriculum vitae; (2) list of publications; (3) references; and (4) a brief statement of how the summer institute at Chicago would assist the applicant and his institution to initiate a research program in his institution. Applications should be sent to Marcel Schein, Chairman, Steering Committee on Cooperative Nuclear Emulsion Research, Department of Physics, Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois.

An eight-week institute in nuclear energy is to be conducted at Argonne National Laboratory next summer beginning June 20. Sponsored jointly by the American Society for Engineering Education, the National Science Foundation, the Atomic Energy Commission, and Northwestern University, the institute is intended to aid a maximum of sixty participating engineering college faculty members in the task of incorporating nuclear engineering material into their courses of instruction. The program will include lectures and laboratory work in the areas of chemistry, chemical engineering, metallurgy, nuclear engineering, nuclear instruments, and reactor physics.

Programs

The University of Wisconsin has announced plans to build an $800 000 addition to Sterling Hall on the Madison campus to house the Mathematics Research Center of the US Army and to provide space in which the university's physics department will carry out high-energy research. The mathematics center will be directed by R. E. Langer, professor of mathematics, and will have a program dealing mainly with mathematical analysis and applied mathematics, statistics and probability, high-speed computing, and operations research and related topics. The staff will be supplemented by