



Plant Engineering Services Branch

FILE NO
DOSSIER NO

DATE 9 February, 1976

TO
A Dr. G. Butler

Re: Operation of Helium Recovery Plant,
Sussex Drive.

I have looked into the possibility of P.E.S. assuming the responsibility for the operation of the helium recovery plant at Sussex Drive and must advise that I do not wish to assume this responsibility. The basic reason for this decision is the fact that a great deal of the system does not comply with the appropriate code standards and considerable labour and dollar expense is involved in bringing the system to fully legal requirements.

From a purely dollar and cents approach I believe not only should money not be spent on revising the system but that there is no justification for continuing the operation of the existing system. There is of course the point that helium is a non-renewable resource and in the future may be scarce. Just what value should be placed on the conservation of this resource is a senior management decision for N.R.C. to make.

The largest user of helium (liquid) at Sussex Drive is the Metal Physics group who in all probability will be relocated to M.R.L. sometime in 1976-77. With the H.I.A. consolidation at Sussex some additional use is encountered but when Metal Physics move a relatively small portion of total usage will be at Sussex Drive.

I suspect that the use of helium has changed over the years and possibly the time is right for an in depth review of our handling and distribution of this resource. Should use be concentrated at M.R.L. a more central location for the purification and liquification plant may be warranted. If such were the case I would be quite prepared to look into placing it at the Heating Plant and assuming responsibility for this service as we do for many others.

AM:AB



A. McLaren.