

★

January 6, 1978

Mr. Donald Gardiner
Patent Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
Washington, D.C. 20240.

Dear Mr. Gardiner:

When I met with you last month in Washington I mentioned an invention disclosure from the University of Missouri relating to Isotope Enrichment and/or Separation by Bursting Bubbles. The inventors are Drs. Jos. F. Stampfer and Wa. S. Hitchcock and the University designation number is 78-P-UMR-009. This invention was discovered in the course of work under a grant from the Office of Water Research, No. USDI-OWRT-A098-MO. You indicated that the Department of the Interior has a little more latitude in releasing "greater rights" under the Office of Water Research grants than under the general Department of Interior policy. Accordingly, please consider this letter as a petition for such "greater rights" under this grant.

I have done some investigating since our meeting as to the original purpose of the grant. It is my understanding that the main objective was to study the transport on the surface of water of trace organic contaminants such as pesticides, herbicides and the like. This clearly appears to be a valid study in and of its own right. I understand further that the total amount of the grant was about \$20,000 and nearly all of this was devoted to the basic purpose of the grant. The portion devoted to the isotope separation was only a small fraction of the total. The bursting bubble technique was employed because the bursting bubbles tend to act as a microtome for separating thin films at the surface.

The discovery that isotopes of the same element, in this case phosphorus 32 and phosphorus 33, could be separated to a significant degree was totally unexpected. In fact, the early results have shown such a large degree of separation as to raise a question as to the validity of the research work conducted to date. In honesty, it must be admitted that the research work on this phenomenon still has not been completed. The course for further research is suggested in the preliminary report of research attached hereto.

On behalf of the Curators of the University of Missouri it is

Mr. Donald Gardiner
January 6, 1978
Page 2

specifically requested that it be permitted to retain title to the invention directed to Isotope Enrichment and/or Separation by Bursting Bubbles as defined herein. It is understood that the release of such rights to the University would be subject to a paid-up non-exclusive license to the United States Government for its own use.

Your prompt attention to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

RES:AM
encls.

Ray E. Snyder

cc. Dr. J. F. Stampfer
Dr. Wm. S. Hitchcock
Mr. Paul R. Keenan