

Density of Powder
(U₂O₈)

Method is described
in ASTM page 649
Part II for 1939.

Method No D153-39(B)

W.P.
3/10/41.

CONFIDENTIAL

February 28, 1941

Mr. Raymond Luber
Central Trading Corporation
511 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Luber:

We are now preparing for experiments which will require the use of about 24 tons of uranium oxide. In these experiments the uranium oxide would be used in sealed cans and the experiments would not affect its quality, so that it would be in the same condition at the conclusion of the experiments as before. We wonder whether your company could let us have the use of such a quantity of material. More specifically, we would like to have 16 tons on loan for 12 months, with an option of extending the loan for a further period of 18 months. We would also like to purchase at the same time an additional amount of 8 tons. While the 16 tons loaned to us could be loaned directly to Columbia University, the 8 tons purchased might have to be bought under a contract between your firm and the National Bureau of Standards.

I would appreciate your letting me have a bid for 8 tons of uranium oxide, at the same time stating whether you could let us have 16 tons of uranium oxide on loan, free of charge, for a period of 12 months, with an option of extending this loan for a further period of 18 months against payment of rental. If such a loan is convenient to you, then kindly state in your reply the rental which you would want to charge for the further period of 18 months.

Perhaps I ought to mention that, in order to meet the formal requirements regulating purchases by government agencies, a purchase if made by the National Bureau of Standards would have to be based on competitive bids, so that you might be asked at a later date to make a bid by the National Bureau of Standards direct.

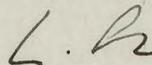
Mr. Raymond Luber, page 2

February 28, 1941

Together with your bid, I would appreciate your letting us have a representative sample of one or two pounds of uranium oxide of the purest brand which you are able to supply. We shall have this sample analyzed by the National Bureau of Standards and specifications for the required purity may later be based on the analysis of this representative sample. If the material is not uniform in quality, we may at a later date ask you for a larger number of samples so as to determine the variations in purity.

Thanking you for the attention which you are giving to this matter,

Very truly yours,



(Leo Szilard)

LS:H

P. S. Would you be kind enough to consider this inquiry, as well as the completion of any arrangement which you may make with Columbia University and which involves the supply of larger quantities of uranium oxide, as confidential. Your limiting knowledge of such transactions to those officers of your company who are concerned would be much appreciated.

L. S.

CONFIDENTIAL

February 28, 1941

Mr. Raymond Luber
Central Trading Corporation
511 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Luber:

We are now preparing for experiments which will require the use of about 24 tons of uranium oxide. In these experiments the uranium oxide would be used in sealed cans and the experiments would not affect its quality, so that it would be in the same condition at the conclusion of the experiments as before. We wonder whether your company could let us have the use of such a quantity of material. More specifically, we would like to have 16 tons on loan for 12 months, with an option of extending the loan for a further period of 18 months. We would also like to purchase at the same time an additional amount of 8 tons. While the 16 tons loaned to us could be loaned directly to Columbia University, the 8 tons purchased might have to be bought under a contract between your firm and the National Bureau of Standards.

I would appreciate your letting me have a bid for 8 tons of uranium oxide, at the same time stating whether you could let us have 16 tons of uranium oxide on loan, free of charge, for a period of 12 months, with an option of extending this loan for a further period of 18 months against payment of rental. If such a loan is convenient to you, then kindly state in your reply the rental which you would want to charge for the further period of 18 months.

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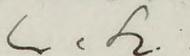
Mr. Raymond Luber, page 2

February 28, 1941

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Thanking you for the attention which you are giving to this matter,

Very truly yours,



(Leo Szilard)

LS:H

P. S. Would you be kind enough to consider this inquiry, as well as the completion of any arrangement which you may make with Columbia University and which involves the supply of larger quantities of uranium oxide, as confidential. Your limiting knowledge of such transactions to those officers of your company who are concerned would be much appreciated.

L. S.

CENTRAL TRADING CORPORATION

511 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

March 7, 1941

Dr. Leo Szilard
Columbia University
Department of Physics
New York City

Dear Dr. Szilard:

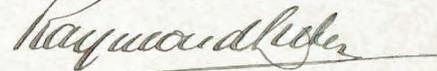
I am in receipt of your confidential letter of the 28th ultimo on the subject of uranium.

It is a matter which I will have to discuss with our directors before giving you a definite reply.

At a meeting of our Board which is scheduled for next week your proposal will be taken under consideration and I shall then be glad to write to you again.

With kindest regards,

Very truly yours,



Vice-President

Raymond Luber
MR

Copied
3/10/41
H.H.

4 copies
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CENTRAL TRADING CORPORATION
511 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

March 26, 1941

Dr. Leo Szilard
Department of Physics
Columbia University
New York City

Dear Dr. Szilard:

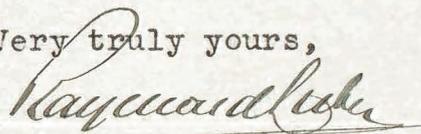
Further in reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo in which you inquired whether we would be prepared to furnish some sizeable quantities of uranium oxide:

It is noted that, in order to meet the formal requirements regulating government purchases, competitive bids will be called for at a later date.

If we receive an invitation to bid, we will be pleased to advance a proposal to furnish what is required.

For your information, we wish to state that we are now selling black oxide of uranium to consumers under requirement contracts at \$2.45 per lb. net.

Very truly yours,



Vice-President

Raymond Lubner
MR

copied
3/27/41
EH

March 27, 1941

Mr. Raymond Luber, Vice-President
Central Trading Corporation
511 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

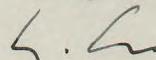
Dear Mr. Luber:

I am writing to you to acknowledge your letter of March 26th.

It appears that my letter of February 28th was not sufficiently clear and that you have misunderstood it in one important respect. In my letter I mentioned the possibility that the quantity of uranium oxide which we intend to procure might be bought on the basis of competitive bids, and that such bids may be called for at a later date. This, however, is only one of several possibilities, and it is as likely as not that the matter will be settled without calling for competitive bids. While it appears certain that we will require in the near future a quantity of uranium oxide as stated in my letter, the manner in which this material will be acquired is still open to discussion.

I asked you in my letter to make us an offer and I intended to use your reply as a basis for this discussion. If we had been unable to accept your offer, and if it would have become necessary to ask for competitive bids, you would have been free to regard your offer as void. I should regret it if you were unable to make the offer for which I asked in my letter, but I am not sure that I ought to stress this point now since I do not know whether your offer could still reach me in time to serve any useful purpose. I therefore should like to leave it entirely to your judgment whether or not you want to re-open the subject.

Very truly yours,



(Leo Szilard)

LS:H

cc: 1 - Pegram
1 - Szilard
2 - Mitchell

E. H.

3 carbons

CENTRAL TRADING CORPORATION
511 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

April 2, 1941

Dr. Leo Szilard
Department of Physics
Columbia University
New York City

Dear Dr. Szilard:

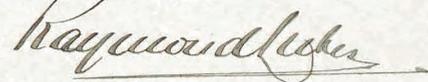
In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo and confirming our telephone conversation with you this morning:

If we are asked within thirty days to supply eight tons black oxide of uranium we will be prepared to furnish it in standard packing at \$2.45 net per lb. f.o.b. New York, freight allowed to any destination in the eastern states.

Delivery could be made within thirty days after receipt of order.

As advised, we are not at present able to offer any black oxide of uranium on loan.

Very truly yours,



Vice-President

Raymond Luber
MR