

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Merrill Eisenbud, Manager
New York Operations Office

DATE: September 19, 1955

FROM : Charles L. Dunham, Deputy Director
Division of Biology and Medicine, Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: RADIOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF DUPLICATE SAMPLES OF RONGELAP
RESURVEY

SYMBOL: BMB:WRB

MEDICINE, HEALTH & SAFETY - 7

The Division of Biology and Medicine is sending a team of four scientists from the Applied Fisheries Laboratory, University of Washington, to conduct a radiobiological resurvey of Rongelap and Ailinginae Atolls. The group will leave the West Coast on October 15, 1955. They will make two round trips from Eniwetok to the Atolls on October 20th and 24th.

In evaluating the U.S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory and Applied Fisheries Laboratory data of the cooperative expedition of January 25-30, 1955 of Rongelap, our staff has found that the two laboratories report different levels of activity in duplicate samples. In some instances these variations are of some magnitude. For this reason we are requesting that the New York Operations Office laboratory analyze duplicate samples of some of the material that will be collected by the Donaldson resurvey group. The material we are interested in having analyzed is soil, sea water, plankton, edible plants and the muscle, liver and bone of omnivorous and carnivorous fish.

It is recommended that either you or Dr. John Harley telephone Dr. Donaldson this week to make the necessary arrangements as to the number, size and form of sample in which you want the specimens delivered to your laboratory.

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