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To B. H. ...

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TWX FROM LEO CHELIUS TO T. L. SHIPMAN

REC'd 2/17/53

TWO WEEKS ADDITIONAL TIME SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENT. WORK IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY ON URSULA. BELIEVE ULTIMATE BACKGROUND WILL BE BETWEEN 2 AND 4 MR/HR WHEN DECONTAMINATION IS COMPLETED. EXPERIMENTAL OPERATIONS STARTED ON IRENE 17 FEBRUARY. SCRAPING SIX INCHES REDUCED RADIATION FROM 140 MR/HR TO 10 MR/HR IN PLACES. EXPLORATORY WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED ON ALICE, BELLE, CLARA, DAISY AND GENE. EXPECT DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ANY OF THESE ISLANDS INCLUDING IRENE DECONTAMINATED WITHOUT PERSONNEL EXCEEDING 300 MR PER WEEK TOLERANCE WHICH WAS REVERTED TO 11 FEBRUARY. INCREASED ACTIVITY ON UPPER ISLANDS HAS REQUIRED ADDITIONAL MONITORING. THIS MAY CAUSE DIFFICULTY IF ONLY ONE MONITOR IS LEFT HERE. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR OPERATIONS GOING ON SIMULTANEOUSLY AT MORE THAN ONE ISLAND.

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