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DIVISION OF MILITARY APPLICATION
GERMANTOWN, MARYLAND

(signed)
F. C. Gilbert

AUG 3 1972

M. E. GATES, USAEC, NV, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

INFO: PAUL DUNAWAY, NV, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

SUBJECT: ENIWETOK PLUTONIUM STUDIES

PARA. CURRENT CONSIDERATION OF CLEANUP OF ENIWETOK HAS POINTED OUT THE PRESENCE OF UNIQUE PLUTONIUM DISTRIBUTIONS ON RUNIT (YVONNE) ISLAND. IF IT APPEARS FEASIBLE THAT THE RUNIT CONTAMINATION COULD BE STUDIED TO OBTAIN USEFUL INFORMATION, DMA WOULD CONSIDER PROPOSING THAT THE AEC LEASE OR OTHERWISE OBTAIN ACCESS TO THAT ISLAND FOR SEVERAL YEARS FOR PLUTONIUM STUDY PURPOSES.

PARA. TOWARD THIS END, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BE CONSIDERED ON THE BASIS OF THE BEST RADIOLOGICAL DATA AVAILABLE AND WITH POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FROM THE PLUTONIUM COMMITTEE TO THE NEVADA APPLIED ECOLOGY GROUP:

1. WOULD THERE BE BENEFITS TO STUDYING THE PHYSICAL DISTRIBUTION AND TRANSPORT OF PLUTONIUM IN THE ATOLL ENVIRONMENT AS DIFFERENTIATED FROM PLUTONIUM IN THE DESERT ENVIRONMENT?
2. ARE THERE POSSIBILITIES AT RUNIT FOR USEFUL OBSERVATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL BEHAVIOR OF PLUTONIUM IN THE TERRESTRIAL

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AND/OR MARINE ENVIRONMENT?

- 3. COULD PILOT STUDIES WITH THE RUNIT CONTAMINATION CONTRIBUTE TO THERE BEING PROCEDURES FOR CONTROL AND/OR CLEANUP OF PLUTONIUM CONTAMINATION SITUATIONS?
- 4. IF RUNIT ISLAND WERE RETAINED UNDISTURBED FOR STUDY PURPOSES, WOULD THAT POSE ANY HEALTH HAZARDS TO HUMANS LIVING ON OTHER ENIWETOK ISLANDS, AND FISHING, BOATING, AND SWIMMING IN ENIWETOK LAGOON?
- 5. WOULD PLACING A CAMP AT THE UNCONTAMINATED END OF RUNIT POSE HEALTH HAZARDS TO A CARETAKER OR TO FIELD SCIENTISTS?
- 6. WOULD THE EARTH DISTURBANCE THAT WILL BE CAUSED BY THE PACE EXPERIMENTS SIGNIFICANTLY DETRACT FROM THE VALUE OF RUNIT FOR PLUTONIUM STUDIES?

PARA. YOUR COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED BY ABOUT AUGUST 29, 1972.

AGMMA:GCFACER

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