

PUERTO RICO NUCLEAR CENTER
OPERATED BY
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
FOR
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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CABLE ADDRESS: Center
NUCLEAR. _____

11 September 1973

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
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Mayaguez, P. R.
00708

*FROM
Box 3108,
JUB #
7238*

Dr. William O. Forster
Oceanographer, Environmental Programs
Division of Biomedical and Environmental Research
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a preliminary report on the analyses done to date. I told Kharkar to concentrate first on the water and plankton samples so that we would at least have some idea of the initial concentration factors in the first and second trophic levels. This week Kharkar is starting the americium analyses in addition to continuing with the plutonium work and we should have some results to report on this. Tin Mo is working with transfer coefficients of plutonium and americium from crater sediment to sea water and plans to start field studies on the relative rates of uptake of the two radioelements by the local marine phytoplankton of Puerto Rico. By coupling transfer experiments with the survey study done at Bikini, I think we stand a better chance of understanding the biogeochemistry of these elements in the sea.

Roger Ray called about a week ago concerning the possibility of our using a new ship that Los Alamos operations plans to get for future Bikini work. Since I am not aware of the plans DBER has for our laboratory's continued work in the Bikini area, I couldn't give him a firm answer on how much ship time we would need.

The glossy print of the Palumbo which you requested is enclosed. Since leaving San Diego last fall for Bikini, we have had no further trouble with the propulsion equipment on the Palumbo. In addition, the air conditioner has been behaving as it should. We plan to take the Palumbo into the Florida area for drydocking in about six weeks. The shipyard work in Puerto Rico is of such poor caliber that we have given up on trying to get the work done here. On the basis of preliminary bids it looks as if the Gulf Coast Shipyards can bid competitively enough that the total cost for drydocking will be about the same as if it were done in Puerto Rico.

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Dr. W. O. Forster

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Ed Wood is in New Hampshire running the sea trials on a new 42' trawler hull vessel that the Water Resources Authority has bought for its research and we plan to bring the 42'-er to Puerto Rico when the Palumbo returns.

I go into the hospital Thursday, 13 September, and will let you know as soon as possible what the diagnosis is. At least I missed Friday the 13th by one day.

Best regards,



Frank G. Lowman
Head, Radioecology Division

FGL:bh

Encl. (2)

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