

**PRIORITY**

U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY

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1978 OCT 27 AM 9 41

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PCTUZYUW RUHVAAA1387 3000303-UUUU--RHEGGTN.

ZNR UUUUU

P 270030Z OCT 78

FM USDOE HICKAM AFB HI/PASO

TO RHEGNVO/USDOE LAS VEGAS NV

INFO RHEGGTN/USDOE HEADQUARTERS GERMANTOWN MD

RUEVHHN/USDOE BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

YAPHANK NY

BT

UNCLAS

ROGER RAY SENDS TO M.E. GATES INFO BOB TAFT; DOE HQ FOR DR. WEYZEN;  
BNL FOR DR. PRATT.

SUBJ: MARSHALL ISLANDS RESEARCH VESSEL.

WE HAVE NOW NARROWED THE FIELD OF CONSIDERATION TO TWO VESSELS:  
AN OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSEL IN SAN DIEGO AND A CONVERTED NET TENDER  
IN ALASKA. IT APPEARS THAT EITHER ONE COULD SATISFY OUR PROGRAM  
REQUIREMENTS WITHIN FY 79 ANTICIPATED FUND LEVEL. HOWEVER NEITHER  
SHIP CAN BE AVAILABLE AT KWAJALEIN IN TIME FOR OUR JANUARY  
COMMITMENT UNLESS CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS ARE MADE BY NOV 15. IN  
ORDER FOR H&N TO MAKE SUCH CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENT BY NOV 15 THEY  
NEED IMMEDIATE AND UNEQUIVOCAL AUTHORITY TO PROCEED AND TIMELY  
NV APPROVAL OF THE SUBCONTRACT ULTIMATELY NEGOTIATED.

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IN VIEW OF THE LONG LEAD TIME COMMITMENTS NECESSARILY BEING MADE

BY BNL (ESPECIALLY FOR FIRM SCHEDULES OF PHYSICIAN AVAILABILITY),  
IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT PASO, AND IN TURN HOLMES AND HARVER, RECEIVE  
EARLY AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED. I MUST STRESS THAT IN THE  
TIME ALLOTTED THERE IS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO CHARTER  
OPERATION AND THAT FOR A CHARTER OPERATOR TO BE WILLING TO RESPOND  
WE MUST BE PREPARED TO OFFER A YEAR'S BUSINESS WITH SOME PROSPECT  
OF RENEWAL. ASSUREDLY WE CANNOT PROCEED BEYOND THE PRESENT POINT  
WITH INCREMENTAL OR CONDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.


PLEASE KEEP ME ADVISED ABOARD THE WHEELING.

END OF MSG. OP-860

BT

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