



MID-PACIFIC MARINE LABORATORY
ENEWETAK ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS

Supported by
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Murch 2.8

February 20, 1979

MEMORANDUM

TO: Participants in the MPML Workshop
FROM: Ernst S. Reese, Director
SUBJECT: Results of the Workshop

Ernst S. Reese

Thank you all for making a special effort to participate in the workshop. Although the results of the workshop are not the positive enthusiastic set of guidelines which I had hoped for, we certainly did address ourselves to the question of the future of the laboratory. However, instead of dealing with the "how" questions I had anticipated (How should the lab be operated in the future?), we emphasized the "why" questions (Why should there be a lab in the future?).

Following the workshop, I spent two days at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and took this opportunity to discuss research at Enewetak with interested scientists. The sentiment was the same as that expressed at Asilomar: MPML offers unique opportunities for quality research (let's avoid the damaging dichotomy of basic versus applied) on the atoll ecosystem, but part of the appeal of working at Enewetak is the "good deal" investigators get when they work there, i.e. the DOE foots part of the bill through MPML. Not one scientist present was willing to drop his or her current research interests in order to carry out a benthic survey or a fish population study; however, if they could tie it into their current programs they would be more interested.

The following actions are being taken immediately, and I will keep you informed as events progress.

1. Vic Johnson and I are working on completing the Field Task Proposal/ Agreement, DOE Form 5120.2, which is due this week, for FY 1980 and FY 1981. It will reflect some of the suggestions from the workshop. Others will be submitted as an addendum when they are developed.
2. A meeting of University of Hawaii personnel in research leadership roles is scheduled to discuss the extent to which the University may wish to become more involved with the laboratory, including the possibility of securing funds from sources in addition to the Department of Energy.

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The name of the laboratory officially will be changed to the Mid-Pacific Research Laboratory at the end of the current fiscal year. The new name is used in the proposal being submitted.

Again, thanks for your interest and willingness to participate in the workshop and especially for your time. The great German biologist Karl Ernst von Baer wrote in 1817, "Die Zeit ist das grosste Opfer das ein wissenschaftlicher Mann bringen kann."

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