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ENERGY RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
Nevada Operations Office

Assistant Manager
for Environment and Safety
12-9-76

Dr. Walter W. H. Weyzen
Human Health Studies Programs
DBER, HQ

Walter,

I thought you and Bill Burr might be interested to read the attached excerpt from a trip report of Dr. Victor Nelson (U of W) who accompanied Knud Knudsen and Nat Greenhouse on the September trip.

Roger Ray

Enclosure:
as stated

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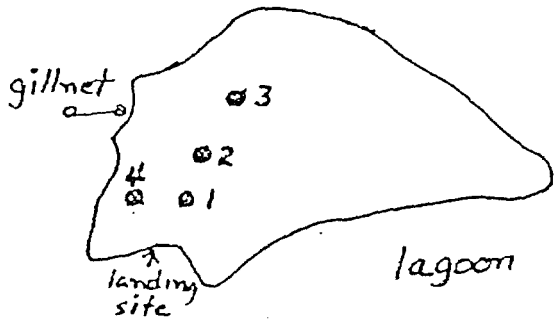
and headed toward Utirik Atoll at reduced speed, since it was only about a 60-mile trip.



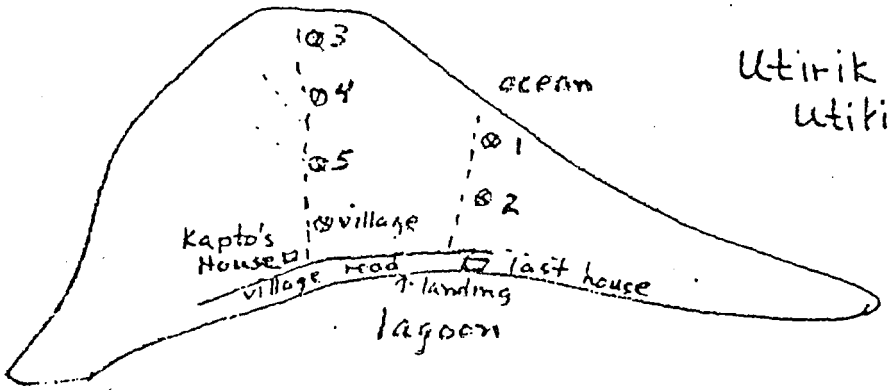
Bigen Island
Ailuk Atoll

21 September (Tuesday)

The LCU was off Utirik Atoll early in the morning but the captain waited until the sun was well up before attempting to enter the lagoon through the narrow pass in the west side of the reef. At 0900 the sun was out of the captain's eyes and he took the LCU into the lagoon, and by 1030 the LCU was anchored off Utirik Island.

Dr. Knudsen and the other BNL and TT medical personnel attended a meeting with the Utirik people to discuss questions the Utirik people had about the BNL medical program. The Utirik people decided that they did not want Dr. Knudsen and the other BNL medical personnel to come ashore to give examinations to the people exposed to fallout in 1954. Statements made by Glenn , the Peace Corps volunteer on Utirik, to the Utirik people helped them to make their decision. Glenn feels that the fallout ~~on Rongelap~~ and Utirik was possibly a purposeful experiment by the U.S. Military to study the effects of radiation on people. Although Dr. Knudsen did not go ashore again, most of the exposed people he wanted to see came to the LCU for their examinations. Dr. Casino (TT) held sick call on the island.

The Utirik protest was only against the BNL medical team; hence, the environmental sampling team of myself, Greenhouse and Naidu were allowed to conduct our sampling and survey program. I collected soil and vegetation at six sites on Utirik Island. Survey measurements were made by Naidu and Greenhouse.



Utirik Island
Utirik Atoll

22 September (Wednesday)

Greenhouse, Naidu and I spent the morning on Eerukku Island (Elluk on some charts). This island is about two and one-half miles northwest of Utirik Island and is the northernmost island with vegetation in Utirik Atoll. It is a very small island, with one house (no occupants today). One soil pit (0-100 cm) was dug near the center of the island, and coconut and Pandanus leaves and fruits

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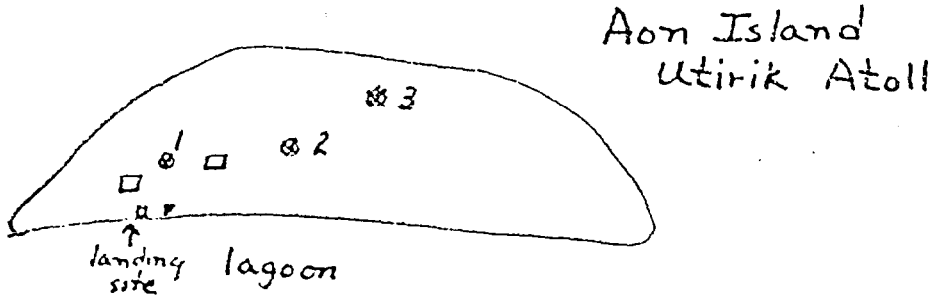
were collected at two sites on the island. Survey readings were made by Greenhouse and Naidu. Fishing with gillnet and thrownet was unsuccessful, mainly due to the very low tide and shallow water around the island

In the afternoon, we went to Aon Island. This island is about six miles west of Utirik Island and is the westernmost island in the atoll. There are five or six houses on Aon but only one was occupied at this time. Samples of vegetation and soil were collected at three sites on this island. Survey readings were also taken..



23 September (Thursday)

The Liktanur left Utirik Island at 0800.

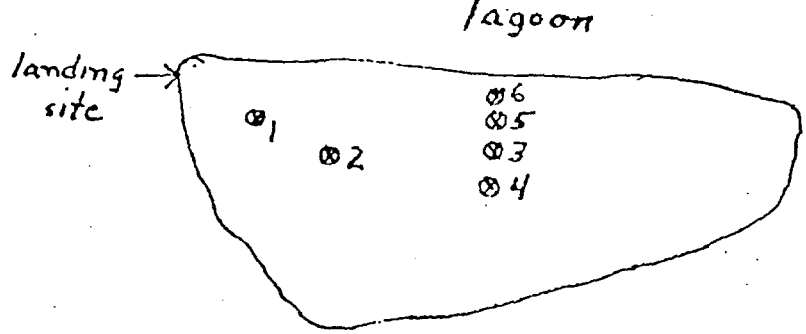
24 September (Friday)

At 1315 the Liktanur beached on Rongelap Island in Rongelap Atoll. In the afternoon a meeting was held with the Rongelap people. No objections were made to either the medical or environmental portion of the program.

25 September (Saturday)

Greenhouse, Naidu and I left Rongelap Island at 0750 in the Boston Whaler. We followed the reef on the east side of the atoll to Eniaetok Island where we cut across the lagoon to Aerik Island. Here we followed the northern reef, and arrived at Naen Island at 0930. This route was a distance of about 30 miles and took about 6.5 gallons of gas on this relatively calm day. We anchored in a deep, sheltered cove between Naen and West Yugui islands. This cove is cut off from the lagoon at low tide (<0.5). A gillnet was set in this cove.

We collected soil and plant samples at six sites. Survey readings were also taken at these six sites and other sites. Rueter-Stokes readings ranged from 20 to 75 μR/hr in the interior of the island. Soil samples of at least 0-25 cm were taken at the six sites, since this island potentially could have the highest levels of radioactivity at Rongelap Atoll. A sample of convict surgeon was taken in the gillnet. We left Naen at 1400 and arrived at Rongelap at 1645, after a one-hour stop at Eniaetok Island.



26 September (Sunday)

At 0800, Greenhouse, Naidu and I left in the Boston Whaler to go to Aerik and Yugui islands. Enroute, we had to change gas tanks and then had difficulty restarting the motor. At the time it seemed that the battery was low, however we found out several days later that the starter was malfunctioning. After about an hour spent floating in the middle of the lagoon, the motor was restarted and we returned to Eniaetok Island. We sampled vegetation and soil, and took survey readings at several sites on Eniaetok. Rueter-Stokes readings in the interior were consistently 12-13 μR/hr. Although there are five or six houses and a school on this island, no people are presently living here. The astoundingly high number of flies on this island made our few hours of stay very uncomfortable.

27 September (Monday)

Greenhouse, Naidu, and I went to Kabelle Island in the morning. This trip took only 75 minutes on a very calm day. I collected soil and vegetation at five sites, including sites sampled in 1974. Three coconut crabs, three Tridacna clams and a sample of mullet were also taken on this island or from the lagoon. Greenhouse and Naidu took survey readings at several sites, including four of the soil sites. We returned to Rongelap Island at 1600.

28 September (Tuesday)

Greenhouse and Naidu took Reuter-Stokes readings along the trail leading from the church on Rongelap Island to ~~the ocean~~ and along the road running through the village. I took soil samples at eight sites along the trail from the church to the ocean beach, and vegetation samples at three sites. The children from the school observed us while we were sampling.

In the afternoon, I dug a soil pit in the area near the trail where LRE personnel had taken samples in 1971 and 1974. I also sampled leaves from a coconut tree that had been sampled in 1974.

29 September (Wednesday)

From 0900 to 1300, the BNL medical team, Greenhouse, Naidu and I met with the Rongelap people to try to answer any questions they might have about the medical program or the environmental survey. Greenhouse demonstrated the use of some of the survey instruments. He discussed the radiation levels at Rongelap Atoll and compared them to hazardous levels and to levels present in 1954. Jerry Knight* translated. Both Greenhouse and Knight did a good job. The Rongelap people were worried about the lead article in the 27 August 1976 Micronesian Independent (Vol. 7, No. 29) which quoted Japanese doctors from the Japan Red Cross Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Hospital and Nagasaki University who, after examining the AEC-BNL treatment cards of the Rongelap and Utirik people exposed to fallout, stated that the exposed people would contract blood diseases. Dr. Knudsen (BNL) told the Rongelap people that he would try to determine why these doctors had made this statement.

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* Jerry Knight has been on Rongelap since 1973, studying the oral history of the people as recorded in the chants, legends, etc., which only a few of the older people remember. He is doing this on his own and is not associated with any school.