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Walter Weyzen

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Joe Maher



UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
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James L. Liverman, Director
Division of Biomedical and
Environmental Research

REPORT ON MID-PACIFIC MARINE LABORATORY (MPML) MEETING

The purpose of the meeting was to formulate a response to H. P. McKaughan at the University of Hawaii of October 26, 1976, that requested you to "consider their previous involvement and wish to submit proposals for continued University of Hawaii participation in the administration of MPML as well as research there." The participants were Weyzen, Swinebroad and myself from BER and Maher and Campbell from DTO. Unfortunately McGraw (SSC) was involved in Chinese fallout (II) and did not attend.

The consensus of the group was that many of our efforts at Enewetak, plus the Marshalls and the Pacific, were fragmented and uncoordinated in spite of the heroic efforts by Roger Ray over the past two years to accomplish this. Therefore, we felt the broader question of future ERDA direction and responsibilities in this area should be addressed rather than the immediate detail of MPML sponsorship.

Discussions revealed that MPML can play a lead role for ERDA in the following areas over the next decade: 1) provide an understanding of transuranic cycling mechanisms from a contaminated atoll into marine food chains leading to man; 2) provide an educational and training ground for marine scientists for short term projects--this has been the major function of this laboratory up to 1974; 3) address specific radiological health and safety questions raised during DNA's clean up activities as well as follow-up during DOI's rehabilitation of this atoll, some of us in ERDA that still believe that DOD's Corps of Engineer approach of placing the 850,000 cubic yards of radioactive debris from Engeby and Runit in Cactus and La Cross crater will not be a permanent solution to the waste disposal problem headache and will be ERDA's for many decades; 4) encourage reputable scientists to attack specific problems associated with the returning Marshalls, e.g. studies of fish diseases such as ciguatera, studies of the water-lens dynamics in the islands and environmental sources for plutonium that was found in pooled urine samples.



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The new director of MPML should have the combination of qualities of being technically competent in transuranic research, be in sympathy with the encourage research applied Marshallese problems and still be able to function with the flury of DOD and DOI activities over the next few years. A candidate exists that could provide these virtues plus a few more in Dr. F. G. Lowman (NRC). He was there during the testing program in the fifties and sixties, and he enjoys the tropics; his transuranic research proposal submitted to BER is an applied aspect of cycling mechanisms; he's a natural administrator, plus he is available at this time.

This leads to the original intent of the meeting, that of defining the most efficient structure within which the new director should operate to be most effective. The recommendation by this group was to have F.G.L. function as an ERDA employee (AES) based in Honolulu in the NVO-PASO office. This would maximize his coordination function by releasing Roger Ray's charge to do same, as well as allow him to participate in the management function which would still be maintained at Headquarters. It is this latter function that perhaps doomed Roger Ray's coordination efforts to failure.

A follow-up meeting is called for, if you concur, that airs the long range structure and responsibilities of ERDA's involvement in the Pacific and how MPML can help achieve these ends.

Roger Ray and Dr. Lowman will be in attendance.

William O. Forster

William O. Forster, Leader
Marine Sciences Program
Environmental Programs
Division of Biomedical and
Environmental Research