

UNITED STATES
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

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REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/NV
BOX No. 1236
FOLDER ENEWETAK FOLDER #7
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
FY 77

Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Lacy, USAF
Commander
Field Command
Defense Nuclear Agency
Kirtland AFB, New Mexico 87115

Dear General Lacy:

As requested, a short description of ERDA planned radiological monitoring of nuclear test impacted Pacific atolls is provided. ERDA followup activities related to nuclear tests conducted in the Pacific and resettlement of the residents of Bikini and Enewetak Atolls has been directed toward:

1. Assessments of environmental radiation and radioactivity levels on islands and atolls that received close-in fallout from U.S. nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific.
2. Development of estimates of projected doses and associated risks for those who inhabit islands affected by fallout.
3. Development of recommendations for cleanup, rehabilitation, and use of test atolls in accord with NEPA and Federal radiation protection requirements.
4. Support of DOD and DOI cleanup and rehabilitation field operations at test atolls.
5. Long-term radiological monitoring followup of the environment and people of the test and near-test islands in the Northern Marshalls.

After cleanup and rehabilitation, followup monitoring of Bikini Atoll and the people living in that atoll was begun. This consists of one or more visits to the atoll each year by an ERDA survey team. Radiation monitoring and sample collection activities are planned and implemented that will provide basic data for assessing the total radiation exposures of island residents considering both external and internal emitters. Whole body counting is performed and samples of urine collected. Samples of marine and terrestrial biota, particularly those in the human food chain, are collected for analysis along with airborne particulates, water, and soil. The enclosed table contains


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a list of important food items in the Marshallese diet. A report of survey findings is issued. Periodically, a reassessment of radiological conditions in the atoll is made and a report published. The survey and reporting efforts operate approximately on a one-year cycle. This followup radiological survey will be extended to include Enewetak Atoll and its residents when cleanup and rehabilitation activities in that atoll are completed.

Brookhaven National Laboratory, University of Washington, and the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory are ERDA contractors for this work. The budget level is about 200 to 250 thousand dollars per year. There is a high degree of cooperation among staff of these contractors and frequent publication of findings in ERDA reports and in the scientific literature. The program provides a means for assessing the quality of these environments as related to radiological health and safety of the Bikini and Enewetak people.

Sincerely,



L. Joe Deal
Assistant Director
for Health Protection
Division of Safety, Standards,
and Compliance

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: R. Kay, NV