



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
NEVADA OPERATIONS OFFICE
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REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
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BOX No. 1228, "ERDA # 3"
BIO-MED Dr. CONARD
FOLDER 01 Thru 12/1974

Mr. Hamlet J. Barry, III
Micronesian Legal Services Corp.
P. O. Box 376
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mr. Barry:

Pursuant to our recent meetings at Majuro relating to the future status of the Eniwetok Marine Biological Laboratory, we wish to formalize a statement in this correspondence that represents the position of the Atomic Energy Commission and the University of Hawaii on this matter. To reflect a broadened scope of activity envisioned (and a change in the accepted spelling of the Island's name), it is proposed that the name of the laboratory be changed from the Eniwetok Marine Biological Laboratory (EMBL) to the Enewetak Marine Laboratory (EML).

The Atomic Energy Commission has made a tentative commitment to a future expansion of the EML operation. The AEC proposes to have the University of Hawaii operate the EML facility with an average of ten scientists and two resident managers on a year-round basis. It is proposed that the EML operation will occupy the existing EMBL building and utilize support facilities as it has in the past until a new facility becomes available. It is further proposed that the laboratory will operate in conjunction with an AEC research vessel (LCU), which will visit Enewetak from time to time, but will be permanently based at Kwajalein.

It is hereby requested that the people of Enewetak consider our request for support of an EML operation for an indefinite future period. This support should include the construction of a new laboratory facility of the general design shown on the attached plan to be part of the rehabilitation plan. The location of the facility is proposed for the northeast end of Enewetak Island, at a point where it would have easy access to the existing docking facilities. A new breakwater and dock is also proposed. It has been determined that this does not conflict with the Coast Guard activities in the vicinity. It is hoped that construction of the facility may be incorporated in the master plan for resettlement. The AEC would be willing to negotiate a lease for rental of the land upon which the laboratory will be situated.

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In order to proceed with a commitment for the future operation of EML, the AEC would require a reasonable assurance that (1) the airfield would remain operational and that some provision for at least weekly flights from Kwajalein or elsewhere would be assured; (2) that fresh water and electricity would be provided; and (3) that accommodations for the visiting scientists, presumably dormitory-hotel accommodations, with food service, would be available on the Island at reasonable cost.

The above is substantially what was discussed with the Enewetak Council on March 15 at Majuro by Mr. Roger Ray of the AEC and Dr. Philip Helfrich of the University of Hawaii. These discussions were intended as an initial overture of a proposed plan to the Enewetak people. They were not intended to be in any way binding on any party, and it is expected that further discussions should take place to work out details of the proposal. We look forward to the Enewetak people's response and to further discussions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
ROGER RAY

Roger Ray, Assistant Manager
for Operations

Enclosure:
As stated

bcc: Dr. W. O. Forster, DBER, HQ
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