

DOE F 13758  
(17-79)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
**memorandum**

DATE December 17, 1980

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF EV-30

SUBJECT Update on Marshall Islands, Spanish and Utah Needs

TO C. W. Edington, EV-30 GTN

Marshall Islands

Although the program plans for P.L. 96-205 (formerly the Burton Bill) have been submitted to the Department of the Interior, it is apparent that events to implement same will not move quickly. In fact, legal counsel for the several parties may suggest extensive revisions. Therefore, it may be some time (FY 1982?) before (a) there is negotiated agreement re the program(s), and (b) the Congress approves of same and appropriates funds for implementation.

In the meantime, actions by others (e.g., the Marshall Islands government, legal counsel to the peoples) and circumstances require that certain decisions be made re policies and funding; these are briefly identified below. I would be pleased to meet to discuss these further at your convenience, perhaps including all interested Headquarters parties.

- 1. NVOO has requested \$125K to complete data analysis and the history of the Enewetak project. Roger Ray has discussed this with Joe Deal, Bill Burr and Del Mayhew.

Estimated cost . . . . . \$125K

- 2. PASO has pointed out the need for at least a \$225K supplement to the FY 1981 funding: \$100K for the ship and \$125K for support of the medical program. The latter is, in part, related to (6) below, and further justification has been requested (see Attachment A).

Estimated cost . . . . . \$225K

- 3. Provision should be made for inventoried storage of all samples from the Pacific Islands. At present they are at LLNL, NVOO, U of Washington, ANL, BNL and, perhaps, elsewhere.

Estimated cost . . . . . unknown

- 4. Per Dr. Cronkite's letter, an effort should be initiated now to determine the incidence of thyroid disease and leukemia in territories to the west of the Marshall Islands. He and I both have met with and established cordial relationships with government and

health officials of the FSM. We should initiate such an effort through other agencies, through international organizations, or through a group from other countries (e.g., Japan, U.K.). In view of impending litigation, the urgency and importance of such an effort is obvious.

Estimated cost . . . . . unknown at this time

- 5. Marshallese personnel who assist the BNL medical teams are requesting overtime payment. BNL employed Marshallese already receive it. This seems a fair request.

Estimated cost . . . . . \$ 4K

- 6. The issue of who covers non-radiation referrals from Rongelap and Utirik is not resolved even though Mrs. Clusen raised the matter with Interior's Acting Undersecretary. At present, we are left covering the costs, which could be around \$25-50K. Is a letter from Mrs. Clusen (or others) to Interior in order? I would recommend so.

Estimated cost . . . . . \$ 50K

- 7. BNL has submitted a supplemental request of \$225K. One part of this is an accelerated effort, per the impending litigation, to get the medical files in shape by hiring nurses to eliminate training time. Detailed itemization of cost is attached (see Attachment B).

Estimated cost if fully funded . . . . . \$225K

- 8. Dr. Cronkite has located a letter to Dr. <sup>Dunham</sup> ~~Dunning~~ dated 1956, which states that the original Marshallese medical records are in Washington. In view of the litigation, it would seem appropriate to assign someone the task of aggressively seeking these records.

- 9. The mechanism by means of which we can fund Dr. Fabrikant (LBL) per the court agreement with the Bikini peoples is not clear. Will this be a separately negotiated contract, or will it be funded as a project through LBL?

Estimated cost . . . . . unknown and to be negotiated, but perhaps in the \$100+ range

- 10. The future of MPRL cannot be deferred much longer. \$200K/year probably is not adequate to cover basic maintenance; better estimates have been requested.

Estimated cost . . . . . \$208K+

Spain

It is anticipated that additional detection and counting equipment may be required. This is not yet clear, but if so, the estimated costs might be about \$50K.

Utah

- 1. The Dose Assessment Advisory Group repeatedly returned to and emphasized the need for independent verification of the modeling efforts at NV. EML and the Utah dosimetry efforts are two such approaches. A third is available to us as a result of aerial surveys coordinated by the National Uranium Resources Evaluation program. Cs-137 levels were recorded along with U, Ra, etc. by Bendix under contract to the Grand Junction office. NVOO and EML feel that a feasibility study would be worth funding and NVOO is considering \$20K toward that effort. I would be more comfortable if the aerial studies (including aerial analysis for "hot spots") were conducted independent of but in coordination with the NV office, similar to the soil sampling studies at EML. Perhaps this could be managed by EML and funded either through EML or Headquarters. Regardless, any proposal should be reviewed by FML.

Estimated cost . . . . . \$20K for feasibility;  
\$20-40K for implementation

2. Following the "sheep" meeting, several needs are apparent:

- (a) Obtain or prepare in an organized format the personal recollections of Drs. Trum and Rust as soon as possible before these original sources are unable to assist. Perhaps an editor/historian could assist them in doing this.

Estimated cost . . . . . \$ 5-10K

- (b) Contract to review and document events pertinent to this issue, including appropriate data preceding and following 1953 (e.g., weather records in Nevada and Utah, state records on sheep losses as a function of weather, information and data on toxic plants in the area, etc.)

Estimated cost . . . . . perhaps \$ 25-50K

- (c) Contract with an organization or individuals to review the entire data base pertaining to the sheep issue, including court records and relevant data obtained since that time (e.g., see (b) above, experiments at PNL and CARL, the NVOO dose assessment studies).

Estimated cost . . . . . unknown, but

- (d) The Department of Justice will attempt to locate the court records of the 1956 trial, which has never been transcribed.

- (e) It is most important that the Department of Energy find the original slides, especially of the thyroid, bone, bone marrow and GI tract, made from tissue sections of the sheep in 1953. Samples were sent to PNL and CARL.

Estimated cost . . . . . unknown, but probably 0

(Inquiries already have been initiated at PNL and AIFP. CARL says they "tossed" them some time ago; if true, this is most unfortunate inasmuch as

3. It is with some dismay that I note that the Offsite Dose Assessment studies have been reduced from roughly \$1M in FY 1981 to \$500K in FY 1982 in response to a FY 1982 field request of \$1395K. This was not discussed with me, and I think that the response of NV, the Advisory Group and other interested parties can easily be anticipated. I was surprised to see this.

cc: Mrs. Clusen  
Dr. Burr  
Mr. Hollister  
Mr. Mayhew  
Dr. McCammon  
Dr. Thiessen  
Mr. McCraw



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**ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP**

Date *12/22/80*

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4.		
5.		

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