

APR 16 1977

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

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,

Original signed by  
L. Joe Deal

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

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: R. Ray, NV

OFFICE ➤						
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DATE ➤						

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

Enclosure:  
 As stated

OFFICE →	SSC:OADHP	SSC:OADHP	SSC:ADHP	SSC:DIR	SSC:DIR
SURNAME →	TFM TFMcCraw/nr	Wolff	Deal	McCool	Hollister
DATE →	4/6/77	4/6/77	4/7/77	4/11/77	4/12/77

*Weyzen Says OK  
 4/7/77 TFM*

*DEB 27*