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TASK
COMMENT



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852

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February 14, 1974

Mr. T. F. McCraw, Chairman
Task Group on Recommendations
for Cleanup and Rehabilitation
of Enewetak Atoll
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Tommy:

I have read the draft "Report by AEC Task Group on Recommendations for Cleanup and Rehabilitation of Enewetak Atoll." It appears that you have included most of the material discussed by the advisory group. Generally, I find it a very satisfactory report.

I have several specific comments I wish to make. I think that an extended air sampling program is in order, if this were the case I would feel, with more assurance, that plutonium inhalation presents no problem. The calculations in Attachment 1, emphasize to me the nature of the unknowns in plutonium resuspension. This together with what I've heard about the results of urine analyses performed on decontamination workers, in my opinion, require further investigation and explanation.

I also have not seen any information on iodine-129 levels in vegetation or biota in the report. I think that analysis for this radionuclide in the thyroid gland of indigenous rodents would provide information on the rather unlikely, but possible, hazard from this radionuclide. Something should be mentioned concerning the thyroid dose from this radionuclide.

It has really been a pleasure working with all of you and I hope you will feel free to call on me any time you think I could be of help.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Shleien, Pharm.D.
Technical Advisor
For Medical Affairs
Bureau of Radiological Health

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