

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

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Chairman Ray
Commissioner Larson
Commissioner Doub
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THRU: General Manager

OUTLINE OF THE STAFF PAPER ON ENEWETAK CLEANUP

I. Background

A. AEC recommendations on the radiological cleanup of weapons debris and rehabilitation of Enewetak Atoll.

B. Current Policy

1. The recommendations on radiological cleanup of weapons test debris are to be consistent with AEC radiological protection practices which rely on use of basic radiation protection standards and emphasize the current requirement for maintaining radiation exposures as low as practicable.

2. A chronology of actions is as follows:

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|----------------|---|---|
| April 18, 1972 | - | Announcement that Enewetak Atoll to be turned back to the Trust Territory government. |
| May 1972 | - | AEC conducts preliminary radiological reconnaissance of Enewetak Atoll. |
| May 1972 | - | Following observation of significant levels of plutonium metal on the island surface, Runit quarantined by DOD. |
| June 1, 1972 | - | Memo to Commission through GM from Biles on Enewetak. |
| June 21, 1972 | - | SECY-2549 Policy Session Item - Discussion of Rehabilitation on Enewetak Atoll. |

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- Sept. 7, 1972 - Interagency meeting to obtain agreements on agency responsibilities for cleanup and rehabilitation of Enewetak Atoll.
- October 1972 - February 1973 - AEC radiological field survey of Enewetak Atoll.
- January 26, 1973 - Memo to Commission thru GM from Gilbert for Camm - Enewetak Radiological Survey.
- July 1973 - Establishment of AEC Task Group on Recommendations for Cleanup and Rehabilitation of Enewetak Atoll.
- Oct. 1, 1973 - Memo to Chairman, cy to Commission from Camm - Enewetak Progress.
- March 6, 1974 - AEC Enewetak Radiological Survey Report distributed to interested Federal agency staff.

C. Related Issue

1. AEC conducted a radiological survey of Bikini Atoll in 1967 and provided guidance subsequently to the Departments of Defense and Interior for radiological cleanup and rehabilitation of that atoll.
2. The extent of AEC responsibility for long-term followup of the environmental radiation and health status of the Enewetak people: since the fallout on Rongelap, there has been a long-term followup on the environmental radiation and health status of the Rongelap people. This program will be expanded to include followup on the Bikini people when they return this summer and it is expected that this program will be extended again to include a long-term monitoring of the environmental radiation in the atoll and the health status of the Enewetakese. These are believed to be prudent and necessary steps to take particularly in the case of Bikini and Enewetak because in the case of Bikini the predicted radiation doses were close to the standards and the conditions of return depend upon the people observing certain advisory actions pertaining to diet and use of portions of the atoll for food. It is expected that similar conditions will be necessary for Enewetak.

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II. Possible Courses of Action

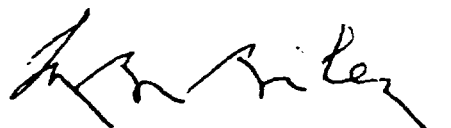
A. Addressing the Issue

1. The Issue

- a. Whether and under what conditions AEC should recommend that the Enewetak people return to the atoll to live.
- b. What are the practical advisory and engineering actions which will reduce the radiation dose for the people who would live on the atoll?
- c. If the Enewetak people insist on complete return and unrestricted use of the atoll, should AEC recommend extensive and massive cleanup?
- d. What measures should be taken to reduce the plutonium contamination on the island of Runit?

2. Options or Alternatives

- a. Should AEC recommend against return of the people at this time?
- b. Should AEC recommend the return of the people without any cleanup or restrictions?
- c. Should the people be returned after cleanup to occupy part of the atoll with practical restrictions on village sites and use of local foods.
- d. Should AEC recommend a massive cleanup to provide unrestricted use of the atoll.



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