

May 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: H. Hollister Cantas, Director
Office of Congressional Relations

HOUSE MILITARY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING
ON ENEWETAK CLEANUP

Date of Communication: May 7, 1975

Late Tuesday afternoon, Mr. McCraw, OS, Dr. Wachholz, BER, and I were requested by DNA and the Micronesian Legal Services, representatives of the Enewetak people, to sit in on the committee meeting. This was a continuation of the earlier discussions with General Johnson, Director of DNA and the staffs of the Senate and House Armed Services Committee.

During the course of the hearing, Mr. Ichord, Chairman, asked for a statement from ERDA staff on the risk to the people from radiation after cleanup. I was spokesman for ERDA and briefly reviewed the AEC-ERDA role in the Enewetak cleanup and resettlement. I noted we were to provide radiological cleanup criteria and long-term followup of the movement of radioactivity in the environment and the health status of the people. I told them that if the DNA cleaned the Atoll to our criteria and if the Enewetak people observed the recommendations of the Task Force, there would be no effects from radiation which could be observed above those that would result from the normal radiation background. We will follow the movement of the radiation in the environment and the health status of the people. This program is an extension of a program already underway to follow the Rongelap natives who received radiation and some injury from the fallout from the weapons tests series. The committee was satisfied. We were not asked for any further information. However, Gen. Johnson was asked for the estimated total cost to the U.S. Government for the Enewetak program. We are already supplying DNA this type of information and will see that they receive the necessary information.

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