

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE February 26, 1953

TO: Dr. Thomas L. Shipman, H Division Leader

FROM: R. W. Spence, J-11 Group Leader

SUBJECT: Heavy Element Mine at Eniwetok

Ref.: J-16379

~~RESTRICTED DATA~~
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The debris from the Ivy Mike test is scattered over islands adjacent to the shot island and is concentrated enough so that recovery of heavy elements (plutonium and up) is feasible and desirable. Vic Benson went out to Eniwetok and collected about 600 - 800 pounds of hot coral from the island of Edna. This sample was an excellent source of heavy nuclides and the idea of getting more has been enthusiastically advanced by workers at UCRL, ANL, and LASL. It has been decided that the next moves should be:

1) Collect more of the coral from hot spots on Edna and perhaps other islands as well. The maximum amount of such coral should be in the neighborhood of four tons; the minimum depends on how soon the hot spots play out. Obviously, it is best to collect coral with the most activity per gram.

2) Survey Edna particularly, and also other islands and coral at the crater bottom, to see whether or not more extensive (and expensive) mining is justified. The information needed is how the activity varies as a function of coral depth and, of course, how the activity varies in various parts of the island.

My understanding is that Major John Servis will go out to Eniwetok and supervise the survey work, using personnel now located at there. He will also act as contact man for the collection of the 2 - 4 ton coral samples, although it is assumed that Paul Spain will arrange for the actual collection and crating if we advise him what we want.

I have talked to Harry S. Allen about shipping the coral back here. Allen is going to arrange for a C-54 to fly the samples back. He requests that the 2 - 4 tons of coral be boxed, each packed box to weigh no more than about 250 lbs. for ease in handling. He also asks that Major Servis get in touch with him so that he can make arrangements regarding time, activity level, etc.

If additional details are needed for your teletype to Chelius and Spain, please let me know. Thanks a lot.

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R. W. Spence
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RWS:el
CC: A. C. Graves
R. W. Spence
J Division

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REPOSITORY LOS Alamos Lab LA-2
COLLECTION CL-12
BOX NO. 11331-1
FOLDER Operational Ivy - General

Classification changed to UNCLASSIFIED by authority of the U.S. ERDA
Per D. J. S. H. DUNN
(Person authorizing change in classification and date)
See Eniwetok report