

OCT 29 1976



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

P/CO ROUTING SLIP

ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC., UPTON, L.I., N.Y. 11973

SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

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PROJECT				
October 22, 1976				<i>Jan</i>
PROJECT				<i>Jan</i>
SEND COPY TO:				
HEAD				
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REMARKS:				

Mr. J. Stanley, Director
Pacific Area Support Office
USERDA
P.O. Box 29939
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

Dear Bill:

The following trip report covers the activities of the, "environmental survey team", which accompanied Dr. Knudsen's medical group on its quarterly survey of the Northern Marshalls, September 17 through October 3, 1976.

Jan Naidu (BNL), Vic Nelson, and I rendezvoused in Honolulu on September 16 and proceeded to Kwajalein via MAC on September 17. We were surprised to find that the Liktanur was scheduled to leave within a few hours after our arrival, rather than on Saturday, September 18. Ted Murawski anticipated all of our needs, however; and we had no trouble accomodating the change. *Why*

Vic Nelson was the lead man on environmental sample collections, while Jan Naidu and I concentrated on the external radiation measurements. We did "control" studies at Wormej and Wotje Islands, Wotje Atoll (September 19) and at Ailuk and Bigen Islands, Ailuk Atoll (September 20). This information should provide a good data base for comparison with environmental survey results from significantly contaminated atolls in the Northern Marshalls.

We were fortunate not to have been significantly affected by the, "political problems" which plagued the Medical Team at Utirik Atoll (September 21-23). Surveys were done at Utirik, Eorukku, and Aon Islands, and we feel that sufficient data was obtained on the external radiation environment to reliably assess the incremental exposure rate from residual Bravo fallout at Utirik.

At Rongelap Atoll (September 24-29) surveys were conducted at Naen and Kabelle Islands in the North, Eniaetok Islands on the eastern side, and of course the village island, Rongelap, in the southern sector. The exposure rates on Rongelap Island also appear to be sufficiently uniform that we can determine reliable external gamma dose rates to the residents.

REPOSITORY

DOE/PASO

COLLECTION

DOE/NV

BOX No.

1228 "ERDA #3"

FOLDER

BIO-MED, Dr. CONARD
01 THRU 12/1976

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The only problem which we encountered at Rongelap was outboard engine failure (starting problem) on open water during one of our trips to the northern islands. Vic and I encountered a similar problem at Rongelap in 1974. I would strongly suggest that the present 55 hp engine on the Boston Whaler be replaced with two smaller engines; or, as a minimum, that provisions be made to install one of the small 4 hp engines on the transom for use in such emergencies. It would also be extremely helpful if we could obtain more reliable radio communication facilities between the Liktanur and the small boat or shore parties 20 to 30 miles away. The existing citizen's band transceivers are marginally useful at best, and there is often an interference problem from Japanese fishing fleets in the area.

*Send out
where our
10 HP
engine is
Jim*

Certainly, the highpoint of our stay at Rongelap was a village meeting on our last day (September 29) where we utilized the extraordinary linguistic skills of local resident Jerry Knight to conduct a lecture-demonstration on the environmental survey efforts, to explain radiological concepts and standards, and to provide apparently meaningful answers to bothersome questions and "pet worries" which have concerned many of the Rongelapese for years. I feel that Jerry is an extremely valuable resource as a trusted member of the Rongelap community with enough basic technical understanding to convey the import of ERDA programs to his fellow islanders, and also with enough of an understanding of Marshallese culture to help avoid the "bunglings" and "ugly-Americanisms" of the past.

We arrived at Bikini on September 30 with more than enough time to conduct our business and depart on the C-54 charter for our return to Kwajalein. While at Bikini, we collected additional samples of "house dust" and sediment from the domestic water catchments for our Pu resuspension studies. We also laid the ground work for a new air monitoring program. Our biggest disappointment was the loss of the new Peace corps volunteer who had been transferred (against his wishes, we understand) because of the Peace corps supervisor's misunderstanding of the significance of the recent plutonium bioassay findings at Bikini. He would have been a valuable assistant in maintaining the air sampling equipment which we expect to install at Bikini by next Spring.

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We returned to Kwajalein on October 2 and arranged for the transshipment of our gear at some later date. All of our environmental samples were hand carried on MAC for later shipment to UW and BNL by H & N. Bill Scott and Pete Heotis coordinated the plutonium bioassay urine sample collections which continued at Ebeye after we left.

The only other problem that I had concerns reservations about the new captain on the LCU. I discussed them with Kris and Jim at PASO, but I would prefer not to go on record with the details here. If you feel that I can provide information beyond my discussions at PASO, please give me a call.

October 22, 1976

Again, thank you for the continued excellent support from PASO, H & N, and Global. As usual, I am looking forward to our continued association.

Best regards,



N.A. Greenhouse

sls

cc: C. B. Meinhold
A. P. Hull
T. F. McCraw
V. A. Nelson
R. Ray