

REPOSITORY DOE / PASO  
COLLECTION DOE / NV  
BOX No. 1227, "ERDA # 2"  
BIKINI SURVEY  
FOLDER Jan Thru DEC / 1971  
& THRU JUNE / 1972

405509

MAY 15 1972

Colonel J. L. Fishback  
Commanding Officer  
Kwajalein Missile Range  
APO San Francisco, California 96555

Dear Colonel Fishback:

**BIKINI SURVEY SUPPORT**

In connection with the program for the return of Marshallese natives to Bikini Atoll, the Nevada Operations Office is committed to the conduct of a radiological survey of that Atoll in May 1972. It is presently planned that approximately 8 to 10 professional personnel will be present on Bikini Atoll for approximately 8 days commencing on or about May 3, 1972.

During my recent visit to Kwajalein and Bikini, a number of support requirements were discussed with your staff, with your site contractor and with Trust Territory representatives. I understand that most of these requirements can be met with resources available to you and without significant impact upon your mission responsibilities. Our detailed requirements will be formally stated in the immediate future. One matter, however, which I understand requires a policy determination, is the availability from your marine assets of one LCU to be fully dedicated to the survey mission for the entire 8-day period plus transit time. If available, this vessel would be used as the base of operations, providing living accommodations, messing and essential intra-atoll transportation.

My visit to Bikini Atoll made it abundantly clear that it would not be prudent to depend upon the Trust Territory resources for any essential support. I believe that it would be both unwise and unfair to expect a productive expedition to result from such dependence. As I discussed with you at the conclusion of my visit last week, I am confident that a survey which

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*Bikini*

Colonel J. L. Fishback

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otherwise would require 12 days or more can, with an LCU available, be accomplished in a maximum of 8 days--with significant improvement in safety, comfort and effectiveness and thus in the survey results. We would propose to pre-position all survey and support equipment on the LCU at Kwajalein and thus avoid any substantial cargo handling at Bikini.

I recognize that your marine assets are heavily committed to NDR's mission activities. I wish to assure you, however, that the Bikini survey is an essential task in support of national policy and that our careful examination of all alternatives makes it clear that it is in the United States Government's best interest to conduct it in the manner described. In order that our planning and preparations may proceed in timely fashion, I would appreciate your early and favorable consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

Original Signed by  
ROGER RAY

Roger Ray, Assistant Manager  
for Operations

bcc: W. B. Mills, Dir., PASO, HONO  
W. D. Smith, AM/EAL, NV-HQ  
W. R. Cooper, AM/P&B, NV-HQ  
*C F Mudgett - 3/17/72*  
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