



INHALATION TOXICOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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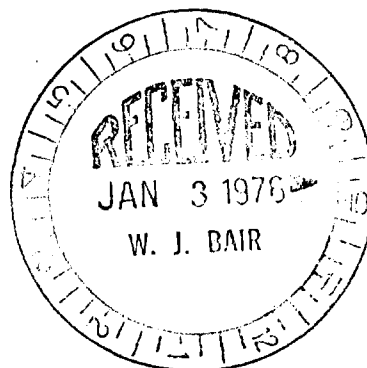
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87115

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Dr. W. J. Bair, Manager
Environmental and Safety Research
Program
Pacific Northwest Laboratories
P. O. Box 999
Richland, WA 99352



Dear Bill:

I have reviewed your draft letter of December 17, 1976 to Dr. James L. Liverman relating the TTG recommendations concerning transuranic contamination of Bikini residents. The letter is right on target, however, I would like to see several points clarified or added as noted below:

1. You note that "if the revised projections indicate body burdens attaining nanocurie levels, then in vivo counting of all residents is urged." I personally feel this should be changed to read - "indicate body burdens of 10 nanocuries or more, then in vivo counting of all residents is urged." I personally doubt that burdens of less than 10 nanocuries can be measured with any degree of validity, especially at Bikini.

2. I would like to see the last paragraph changed to read as follows: "In considering these questions, the TTG felt somewhat handicapped in that a concise but comprehensive summary of information on Bikini was not available. Livermore, Brookhaven, HASL, the University of Washington and perhaps other labs have collected data which could be useful in assessing the current levels of contamination on Bikini. It would be appropriate to have all of this data brought together, summarized, interpreted and used as partial guidance for establishing a long range monitoring program and estimating health risks for Bikini residents."

Sincerely,

Roger O. McClellan, D.V.M.
Director, Inhalation Toxicology
Research Institute

ROM:mm

xc: Dr. N. F. Barr
Dr. W. W. Burr
Dr. W. C. Hanson
Dr. J. H. Harley
Dr. O. L. Keller
Dr. D. A. Orth
Dr. C. R. Richmond
Dr. R. C. Thompson

to review the present program on assessment of the plutonium contamination of the environment and population of Bikini. Our objective would be to prepare a letter to Dr. Liverman containing an evaluation of the program and recommendations for improvement.

The meeting agenda would include presentations by Dr. Bob Conard on the urine bioassay program at Bikini, Dr. Nat Greenhouse on environmental monitoring and Dr. John Harley on plutonium analysis. This would be followed by a discussion and preparation of a letter to Dr. Liverman by the TTG.

Because the issue of plutonium contamination of Bikini is scheduled for further consideration in government circles early in January, Dr. Burr and Dr. Liverman would like us to complete our review as early as possible.

Among the dates I've proposed by phone to two of you, only the week of December 6 seems possible. Therefore I'd like to schedule the meeting for Wednesday, December 8, 1976 at Germantown. Meeting with us will be Bill Burr, Nat Barr, Tom McCraw and possibly Bruce Wachholz.

We expect to contact each of you by phone on Monday to confirm the date and place.

Sincerely yours,



W. J. Bair, Ph.D.
Manager
Environmental and Safety
Research Program

WJB:mjs

cc: W. W. Burr
B. W. Wachholz

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Reviewed by J. Schmitt Date 4/30/97