

MAY 8 1973

Organization

Major General Frank A. Camm, USA
Assistant General Manager for Military Application

ENIWETOK TALKING PAPER

Summarized below are topics relating to my earlier discussion with you of current DNA actions and attitudes in radiological matters. Facts, potentially adverse results, and recommendations are presented.

DNA TRIP TO THE PACIFIC

On May 1, members of the DNA staff met with representatives of the TTPI and Eniwetokese to discuss planning for cleanup—probably to include discussion of lifestyles. We feel that approaches to the Eniwetokese should continue to be coordinated. No prior coordination or advisory of this trip was made to the AEC. A trip report has been requested of DNA.

Recommendations: (1) Obtain a complete DNA trip report to assist in future Eniwetok planning and (2) In the future, coordination of such trips should be accomplished between the DNA and AEC.

AFRRI STUDY

DNA is sponsoring a study by the Armed Forces Radiobiological Research Institute (AFRRI) to examine the radiological consequences of Eniwetok rehabilitation using current information (i.e., largely excluding the AEC survey). The AEC feels that the current information is inadequate and the AEC radiological survey with its evaluation of data and the recommendations to be derived from it are essential to any meaningful study of this nature. Furthermore, the direction to AFRRI assumes a peculiar approach, i.e., it relates numbers of cancer occurrences with several different assumed radiological conditions. Aside from the fact that other recognized approaches exist, such as FRC, NCRP and ICRP standards, this approach seems potentially explosive for public release

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

REPOSITORY DoE History Division
COLLECTION RG 326, Tommy McCraw Job # 132c
BOX No. 5
FOLDER Organization

purposes since it is tantamount to giving recognition to the Gofman-Tamplin thesis. DOS and OIS are especially concerned with this approach which was described to us by Dr. Leachman (see attached documents). Dr. Bibb's cursory evaluation of the paper "Possible Degrees of Eniwetok Cleanup" is that Dr. Leachman does not know what he is doing.

Recommendations: (1) That DNA delay the AFRRRI study until complete data is available or preferably cancel it entirely and (2) That if the study is done, its results be presented in a scientific form rather than the highly argumentative form of relating estimates of radiological conditions after cleanup to cancer deaths.

DRAFT EIS

DNA has a contract with Holmes and Narver to produce a draft EIS on Eniwetok cleanup and rehabilitation. (The Department of the Interior has indicated a willingness to absorb 1/2 the cost of this DEIS.) The due date for the final rough draft is reported to be June 15, 1973. The reason for this early completion date is surmised to be a desire on the part of General Dunn to be ready for budget requests for supplementary funding in FY 1974 and/or normal funding in FY 1975. (While action on an EIS is desirable as budgetary action is initiated, a completed EIS is not legally necessary until action is to occur. Therefore, DNA could submit a budget and five-year forecast based on assumptions which would then be refined as information becomes better defined.) In discussions with DNA staff, it is apparent that General Dunn plans to use preparation of the draft EIS as the vehicle for obtaining Eniwetokese participation in planning for cleanup and rehabilitation. Under this plan circulation of the DEIS in July and issuance of the EIS in October would produce estimates for the FY 1975 budget cycle which apparently appears timely to General Dunn. This creates, however, concern for DNA contacts with the Eniwetokese in this context since these contacts might be construed as irrevocable commitments regarding the nature of the cleanup.

The report of the AEC radiological survey will not be available until September 1, 1973. Commission approved recommendations for cleanup and rehabilitation will not be available until after November 1, 1973.

The AEC is concerned that DNA (or DOD) will prepare and float a draft EIS without adequate information on present radiological conditions. Such action would tend to establish the radiological cleanup and habitation criteria used by DNA as a position of the U.S. Government. Assuming that these criteria would not coincide with those of the AEC, a very difficult problem would be created. At best, this would pose a difficult and needless problem for the AEC to explain. Much more likely, however, it would jeopardize AEC interests vis-a-vis medical follow-up of the Rongelapese, Bikini cleanup standards, and a variety of situations involving plutonium and other contamination. Publication of premature and ill-considered Eniwetok criteria could well jeopardize the Eniwetok rehabilitation effort itself.

Mr. Palmiter of EPA offered his own opinion at a meeting on April 26 that the EPA would view any such draft EIS, lacking sufficient radiological data (specifically plutonium data) as unacceptable. I feel the AEC should support EPA. If this should happen, the U.S. Government would then be in the position of needlessly discussing a split decision in the public forum.

Recommendation: Undertake this EIS only when complete radiological data from the AEC study are available and have been reviewed. The rough draft then should be fully coordinated with AEC and such other agencies as may be appropriate.

ENGINEERING SURVEY

Holmes and Narver completed an engineering survey on likely Eniwetok cleanup actions. DNA provided some tentative guidelines and assumptions. The concern exists that once a report has been printed and distributed (such as this one has been), "assumptions" may become realities in the minds of some readers.

Recommendation: That all references to the Holmes and Narver report place strong emphasis on the fact that the radiological assumptions are for planning purposes only.

MEDICAL REVIEW OF RONGELAPESE

Dr. Robert A. Conard of Brookhaven Laboratory gave informal indication that the proposed DMA course of action could impair his relations with the Micronesians and adversely affect his further work with the Rongelapese.

Recommendation: See recommendations above.

(signed)
William W. Gay
Captain, USN

William W. Gay
Captain, USN
Assistant Director for Tests
Division of Military Application

Attachments:

1. Paper—"Possible Degrees of Eniwetok Cleanup"
2. Paper—"Suggestions for Inclusion in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Eniwetok Atoll Cleanup"

Distribution:

so: Addressee w/Attachments
cc: G. Facer, DMA, w/Attachments
cc: DMA Files w/o Attachments
cc: Test Reader w/Attachments
cc: Test Pending w/o Attachments

MA:TESTS MA:TESTS

Giannotta/mag WWGay

5/8/73 5/ /73