

FEB 9 1973

Mr. Edward J. Bauser
 Executive Director
 Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
 Congress of the United States

Disruption

Dear Mr. Bauser:

This letter provides information regarding current AEC activities on Eniwetok Atoll. These activities concern the surveys essential to the cleanup, rehabilitation, and resettlement of the atoll in connection with the announced return of Eniwetok to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI).

In April 1947 the United Nations formally designated the former Japanese Pacific Mandates (Eniwetok included) as Trust Territories to be administered by the United States. Upon written notification to the U.S., Eniwetok was designated a nuclear testing site in December 1947, with the first test series there, SANDSTONE, being conducted in the spring of 1948. Prior to SANDSTONE, the Eniwetok people, about 136 in number, were moved by the United States to Ujaeung Atoll where they still reside, although their number has now increased to about 432. Additional test series were conducted in the atoll during the years 1951 (GREENHORN), 1952 (TAY), 1954 (CASTLE), 1956 (HEWLETT), and 1958 (HARTFAC - PHASE I). The last of 43 tests was in July 1958. All tests have been listed publicly.

Geographic location of the atoll is shown in Figure 1. Its remoteness suggests inherent costly operations to accomplish the necessary surveys and subsequent cleanup. Figure 2 identifies the islands of the atoll and general location of the nuclear tests conducted.

On April 18, 1972, High Commissioner Johnston and Ambassador Williams jointly announced the intention of the United States to return Eniwetok Atoll to the TTPI subject to retention of some minor residual rights. Subsequently, the Department of Interior (DOI), Department of Defense (DOD), and AEC determined that a comprehensive and coordinated program to survey and clean up Eniwetok Atoll must be undertaken to make Eniwetok habitable. The program was divided into three phases: (1) Preliminary Radiological and Engineering Survey, (2) Cleanup, and (3) Rehabilitation

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and Resettlement. As with Bikini Atoll, responsibility for cleanup and rehabilitation rests with the DOS and DOI respectively. ABC is responsible for conducting a radiological survey, assessing the results, and establishing criteria and constraints for cleanup and rehabilitation, involving other agencies, as appropriate.

The APMRA has the overall authority and responsibility within the ABC for coordinating matters related to the rehabilitation of the Bikini Atoll. Technical standards and requirements for the survey and cleanup operations will be provided by responsible divisions within ABC Headquarters, particularly the Divisions of Operational Safety and Biomedical and Environmental Research (DOS and DMER). ABC survey activities and supporting analytical efforts are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

After initial weather delays in October of last year, the ABC radiological survey has progressed quite satisfactorily with the field operation estimated to be completed in mid-February 1973 and the resulting analyses and reports being made available about August 1973. The Bikini Atoll provides a very complex radiological situation. As an example, contamination from eight tests on one island, Namik, is measurable today. The presence of a plutonium-bearing sand layer outcropping, and of solid plutonium-bearing chunks, grains, and other particulates on the surface and near surface of this island has been confirmed. Data available to date indicates that radiological contamination while less severe on other islands is still sufficient to be of concern.

Present best estimate of the cost of the ABC precleanup radiological survey is about \$1M. Costs of subsequent studies and radiological monitoring activities are estimated to be approximately \$1M per year for FY 1974 and beyond.

We will continue to keep you informed of substantive developments in this matter.

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and 4

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Sincerely,

(signed)
Frank A. Camm

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

MA:TESTS

AGMMA

OCR

WPHolff/mag

FACamm

2/1/73

2/ 73

2/ 78

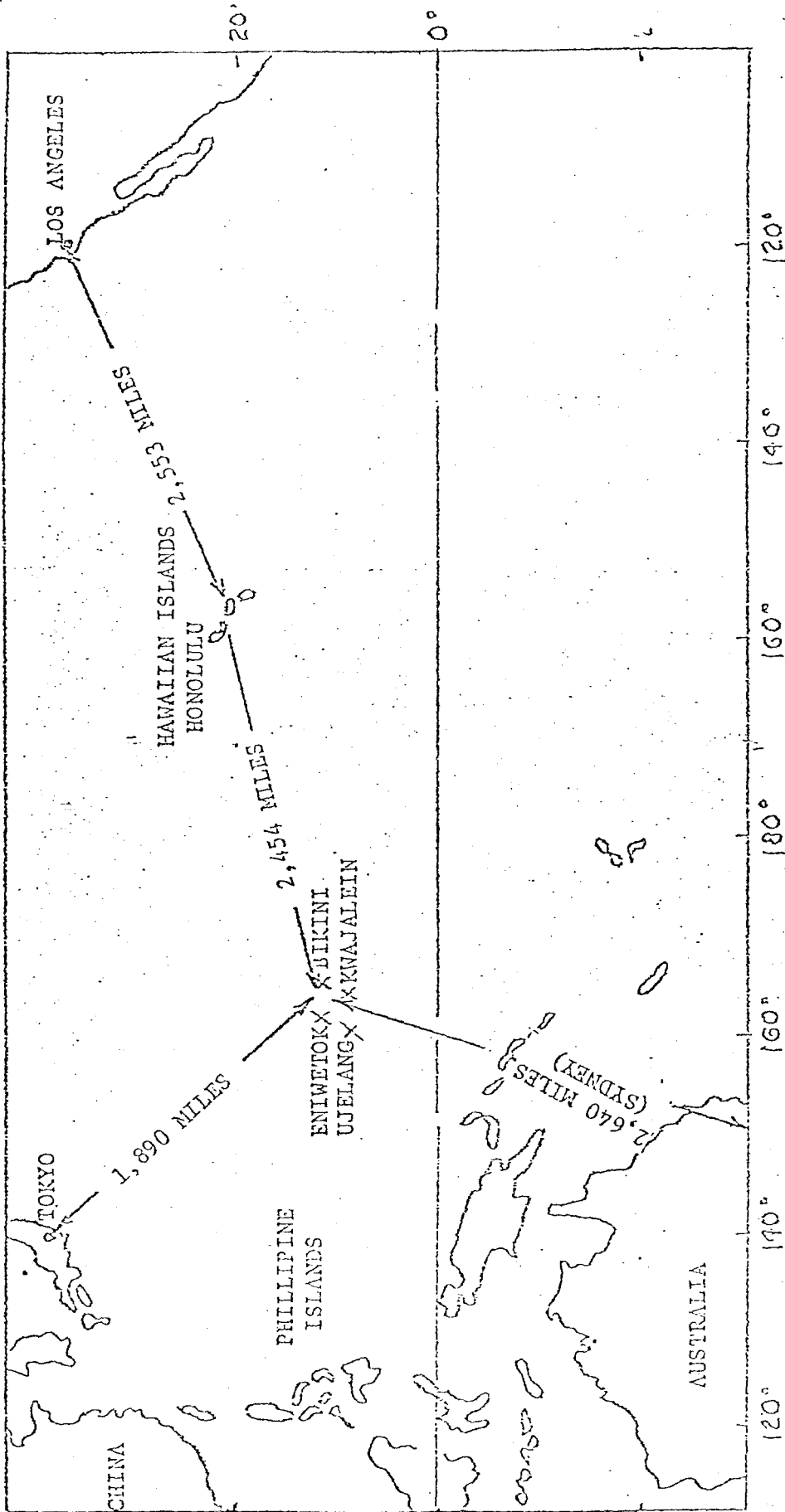


FIGURE 1

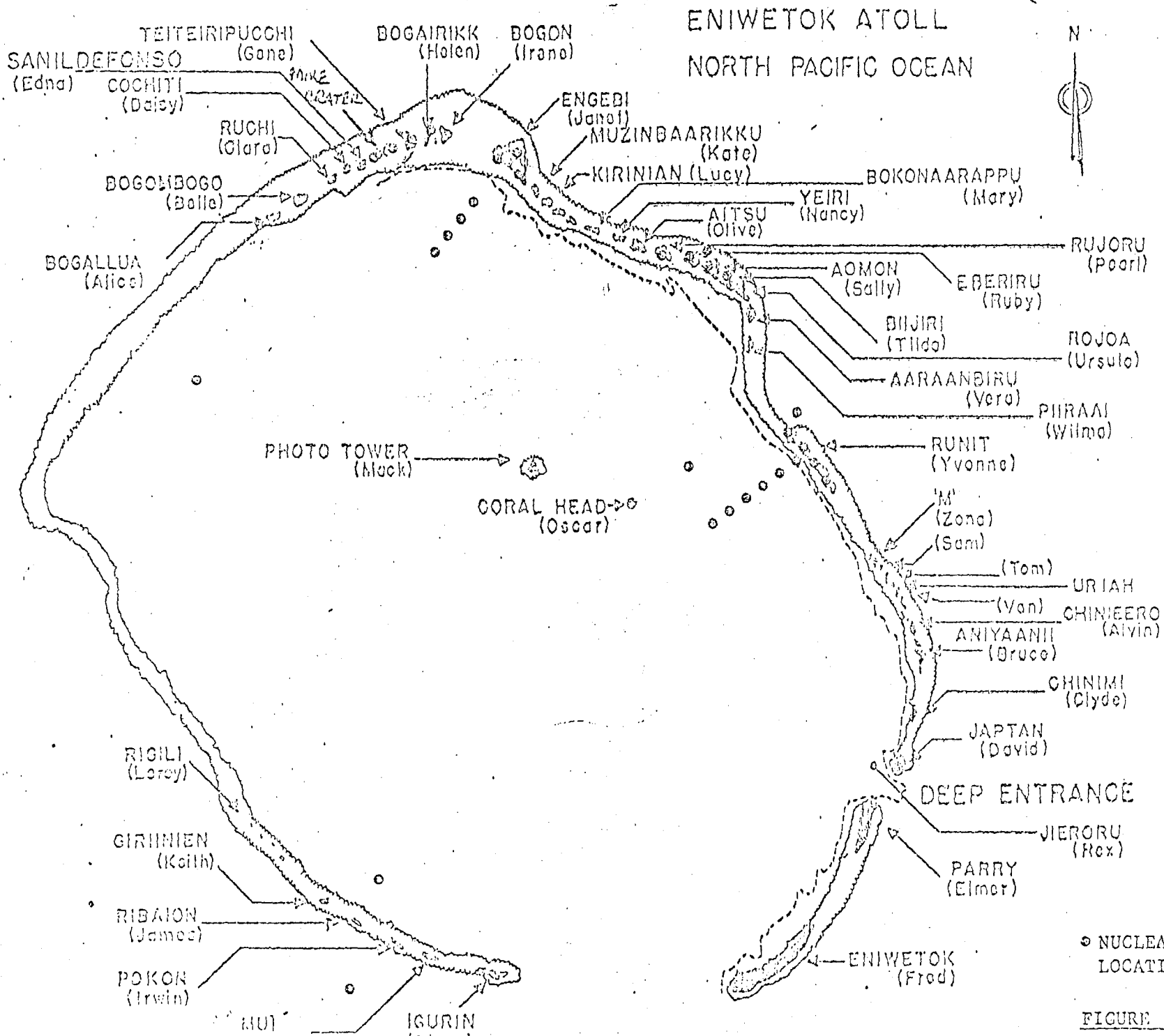


FIGURE 2

SURVEY DETAIL

EXTERNAL DOSE AND SOIL SURVEY (3000 SAMPLES)

EXTERNAL GAMMA DOSE AND DOSE RATE

SOIL SAMPLING -- CORES, SIDE WALL, AND SURFACE

AERIAL MEASUREMENTS (QUICK LOOK AND PHOTO)

AIR, BIOTA, AND POTABLE WATER SURVEY (1000)

AIR PARTICULATES

COLLECTION OF FOOD PLANTS AND ANIMALS

RAD CHEM ANALYSIS OF WATER

AQUATIC SURVEY (900 SAMPLES)

BIOCHEMICAL BEHAVIOR OF TRANSURANIUM ELEMENTS

SHALLOW WATER CORING, WATER SAMPLING, DREDGING,
IN SITU DETECTION MEASUREMENTS

MARINE SAMPLING -- DEEPER REGIONS OF LAGOON

COLLECTION OF EDIBLE MARINE VERTEBRATES AND
INVERTEBRATES

LABORATORY ANALYTICAL CAPABILITY

| <u>LABORATORY</u> | <u>KIND OF ANALYTICAL WORK</u> |
|----------------------|--|
| LLL | SAMPLE PREPARATION - SOIL AND BIOTA COMPLETE ANALYTICAL TREATMENT, SEA WATER GAMMA ANALYSIS, ALL TYPES OF SAMPLES, MARINE SURVEY |
| MCL | GAMMA ANALYSIS SOIL DISSOLUTION AND ANALYSIS FOR PU AND ^{90}SR ANALYSIS OF AIR FILTERS |
| UW | MARINE SURVEY ^{55}FE ANALYSIS ^{90}SR ANALYSIS |
| CONTRACT ANALYSES | GAMMA ANALYSIS SOIL DISSOLUTION AND ANALYSIS FOR PU AND ^{90}SR |
| NERC (EPA) LAS VEGAS | ANALYSIS FOR PU |
| LASL | PU HEALTH STUDIES |