



LAWRENCE LIVERMORE LABORATORY

411712

August 30, 1972

Mr. Mahlon E. Gates, Manager
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Nevada Operations Office
P. O. Box 14100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89114

Dear Mr. Gates:

In response to your letter of August 25, I suggest that Dr. Walter E. Nervik, head of the LLL Radiochemistry Division, be Technical Director for the Eniwetok effort.

It is apparent that this program will be especially complex because of the likelihood of scrutiny by a broad spectrum of the scientific and international political communities. I think it particularly important, therefore, that it not be undertaken until there is a definition of the program scope and priority by the appropriate Washington officials. In addition, there should be a clear delineation of responsibility and there should be assurance of sufficient funding so that the quality of the effort is not likely to be compromised.

Sincerely,

Roger E. Batzel
Director

cc: W. E. Nervik
Roger Ray (NVOO) ←

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REPOSITORY DOE History Division
COLLECTION RG 326, Tommy McCraw Job # 1320
BOX No. 5
FOLDER Organization

August 25, 1972

Dr. Roger E. Batzel, Director
Lawrence Livermore Laboratory
University of California
P. O. Box 808
Livermore, California 94550

Dear Dr. Batzel:

As you undoubtedly know, interest in the rehabilitation of Eniwetok Atoll has gained considerable momentum since April of this year when the United States publicly promised its return to the Trust Territory by the end of calendar 1973. Recently the General Manager assigned overall coordinating responsibility for AEC actions at Eniwetok to the Assistant General Manager for Military Application. In turn, the AQMA has indicated that he intends that the Nevada Operations Office take full responsibility for all AEC field operations associated with the rehabilitation. Even more recently, we have an indication from the Office of the AQMA that adequate funding will shortly be made available to support a comprehensive radiological survey this fall.

Our very preliminary surveys have shown that we face a most difficult radiological situation which will require the best efforts of representatives of a number of scientific disciplines. It seems clear also that we may expect this activity to come under close scrutiny by the United States scientific community and perhaps even by an international commission of some sort. For these reasons, I feel that it is essential that we build our plans upon a scientifically valid rationale and execute them under sound scientific leadership. I would be most appreciative if the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory would provide a technical director for the Eniwetok effort. His exact relationships I think would best be worked out between the individual you nominate and my Assistant Manager for Operations, Roger Ray, under whose cognizance this effort will be conducted. Should you wish to clarify any other details of this request, please telephone me.

Very truly yours,

Mahlon E. Gates
Manager