

REPOSITORY DOE History Division
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411715

8/23/72

Organization

R. E. Hollingsworth
General Manager

ENIWETOK REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Your memorandum of August 1, 1972, delegated AEC coordination responsibility for the rehabilitation of Eniwetok Atoll to the ACBMA. It was our understanding, at the time, that DOS had placed \$125,000 in the NV financial plan for use in conducting a radiological survey at Eniwetok this fall. The \$125,000 was not included in the DOS FY 1973 budget and the money was made available by deferral or reduction of planned DOS programs. With the assignment of coordination responsibility to ACBMA, DOS is attempting to reprogram these funds back to the original projects.

In conjunction with NV, DOS, and DBER, we have reviewed the Eniwetok situation and recognize that the AEC will have a responsibility to provide technical advice and support in radiological matters to the federal agency having overall authority. It appears that additional funds for DOS and DBER will be required to expand the scope of the radiological survey and to determine, on an accelerated basis, the significance of the radiological situation at Eniwetok as it applies to rehabilitation of the atoll. Areas of interest include both food-chain considerations and basic cleanup to acceptable criteria for exposure to external radiation.

In discussions on August 17, 1972, DOS and NV identified the need for a two-month survey scheduled to begin at the end of September 1972. It is estimated that about \$300,000 will be required for field operations in connection with this survey and an equivalent amount for analysis of samples taken. A substantial degree of uncertainty exists because of current unknowns in the level of DOD logistic support which may be made available and in the extent to which AEC and DOD laboratories may support sample analysis on a nonreimbursable basis.

In addition to the survey and sample analysis, a major effort will be required to fully evaluate data collected and to examine biomedical and environmental parameters. Total FY 1973 costs to DOS for the survey and analysis may approximate \$500,000. DBER costs have not yet been identified with precision but should approximate \$200,000 in FY 1973.

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It is anticipated that the Defense Nuclear Agency will undertake an engineering survey concurrent with the radiological survey of the AEC and will provide a considerable degree of support in billeting and intra-atoll transportation. Details are being worked out.

In the performance of my coordination responsibilities, I find it necessary to point out the funding requirements described above. DOS and DBER advise that they cannot fund these efforts within their FY 1973 budgets. To attempt to fund them from the austere weapons program budget would require elimination of essential program requirements. If the AEC is to accomplish its share of this important project on a timely basis, the required funds must be identified and made available by September 1, 1972. I propose that the Controller be requested to identify such funds by that date.

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Major General, USA
Assistant General Manager
for Military Application

cc: Mahlon E. Gates, Manager
Nevada Operations

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