

October 26, 1956

400186

Mr. Merrill Eisenbud
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
New York Operations Office
P. O. Box 30, Ansonia Station
New York 23, New York

Dear Merrill:

We returned from the Rongelap trip yesterday and are having the coconuts, pandanus, water, and soil samples for NYOO packed for immediate shipment. The shipment will be sent via MATS to the ZI and then by rail.

Your other samples will be dried before shipment which should be within the next two weeks. We expect to leave here about November 7.

Following are notes concerning the samples now being shipped. At Rongelap Atoll, collections were made at Kabelle, Labaredj and Rongelap Islands:

Coconuts - from each island, one coconut was taken from each of five trees.

Pandanus - one sample from each of five trees on Rongelap Island.

Soil - A circular template one-half square foot in area was used. Two samples were taken from each island with the top three inches of soil placed in a one gallon can and the next three inches of soil placed in a second can.

<u>Sample No.</u>	<u>Island</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Meter Reading, m.rep./hr</u>		
			<u>Surface</u>	<u>3" below</u>	<u>6" below</u>
1 and 2	Kabelle	Open area	3.5/12		0.2/0.9
3 and 4	Kabelle	Grass area	2/8		0.2/0.9
5 and 6	Labaridj	Open area	2/8		.08/0.9
7 and 8	Labaridj	Under a tree	0.6/7.0	0.3/1	.07/0.9
9 and 10	Rongelap	Grass, near well	0.3/0.9	.05/0.3	.05/0.9
11 and 12	Rongelap	Papaya cluster, Schoolhouse	0.3/1.0	0.1/0.5	0.1/0.9

The meter readings were made with a Beckman MX-5 one inch above ground with the shield closed followed by a reading with shield open. Background for this instrument was ≈ 0.05 . All the samples were from areas that

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were level for many feet, i.e., they were not collected from either a crest or a depression.

Water - three, one liter samples of lagoon water were taken from each of four areas: off of Rabelle, Labaridj and Rongelap islands in Rongerlap Atoll and from Ailinginae Lagoon.

Copy of this letter is being sent to Dr. Charles Dunham.

Very truly yours,

AHS:cef

A. H. SEYMOUR

cc: Charles Dunham
Chief, DBM, Wash., D.C.
L. R. Donaldson
Dir., AFL, Univ. of Wash.

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