400530

## BIKINI AND ENIWETOK SURVEY

The contamination with fission products, as the result of the atomic bomb detonations, over, under or near the water at Bikini and Eniwetok atolls, has created very complicated problems of evaluation. Each of the five detonations in these areas pose separate problems, but studies of all five bursts contribute to a better understanding of the problem.

The waters about Bikini contain only trace quantities of radiation. The great mass of sludge for the target center (approximately 500,000 tons) remains moderately active. From the target area the radiation spreads to the biotic forms about the atoll where it is absorbed and retained. Some migration of radiation has taken place up onto the islands where it is picked up by the plants. Such translocated fission products onto the land are of a low order of intensity, about three to four times the natural background.

The shot islands at Eniwetok, and the plants and animals on the shot islands contain radioactive fission products. Some multiplication of the plants is observable. The plants and animals in the lagoon adjacent to the shot islands have absorbed radioactive products. Distribution of the active matter about the Eniwetok Lagoon is not uniform as is the case at Bikini but concentrated adjacent to the shot islands.

The effect of mixed fission product contamination of biotic systems is being continued both in the test areas and in the laboratories in this country.

FROM
NMB-N

1174

5004942