

MARSHALL ISLAND BRIEFING AUGUST 3, 1977

Conclusions, Recommendations, Accountabilities

I. Attendees

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II. Bikini Atoll

Conclusions:

- ✓ 1. Calculated annual dose rates on Bikini may result in 30 year accumulative exposures in excess of 5 rem.
2. Calculations are based on extrapolation of transfer coefficients and not field measurements.
3. Annual whole body measurements of natives do not indicate a hazardous situation.
4. Presence of ¹³⁷Cs in coconuts is a problem of economics as well as a potential source of human exposure to ionizing radiation.
5. Only DOI is involved in resettlement question and not DOD.

Recommendations:

1. Conduct an aerial radiation survey of Bikini Atoll.
2. Continue field studies of radionuclide uptake in native crops.
3. Continue to ship in food staples.

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4. Conduct a socioeconomic impact study to include considerations of relocation of natives and alternate handling and use of coconut crops.
5. Leave people on Bikini Island for an additional year, if necessary, during which time a reassessment will be made on the potential radiological and social impacts of alternatives in settlement and relocation (e.g. to Enui).
6. Discuss situation with EPA.

Accountabilities:

1. OES will take the lead in cooperation with BER in preparing a letter for J. L. Liverman's signature to DOI by August 15 which will discuss the above conclusions and recommendations and their rationale.
2. T. McCraw, OES, in cooperation with B. Wachholz, EOEP, will contact EPA (Rowe) and arrange a briefing.

III. Enewetak Cleanup

Conclusions:

- ✓ 1. Funds in AES are inadequate to fulfill obligations.
2. Soil cleanup criteria are questioned by NVO and by some of the scientists in attendance at a Marshall Island workshop (June 27-29, 1977, at LLL).
3. Proposed disposal scheme for contaminated soil and miscellaneous debris is questioned as in 2 above.
- ✓ 4. Management of AES programs in the Marshall Islands should be improved.
5. Existing MOU between ERDA (Liverman) and DNA (Johnson) does not reflect the present arrangements for radiation monitoring.
6. ERDA is expected to certify the adequacy of cleanup.

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Recommendations:

1. Request additional support from OMB for cleanup activities.
2. Review criteria for soil cleanup and plans for soil debris disposal to include the radiological consequences of the disposal plan.
- ✓ 3. Develop an acceptable management plan for AES activities in the Marshall Islands.
4. Revise the MOU between ERDA and DNA to reflect actual conditions of cleanup operations.

Accountabilities:

- ✓ 1. Deal will prepare a letter for the Administrator's signature advising DOD that additional funds will be necessary for AES/ERDA continued support of cleanup operations.
2. Deal will prepare a letter by August 12 to be sent to DOD explaining AES proposed activities related to Enewetak cleanup. Formal transmittal will be preceded by discussions with DOD.
3. Burr and Deal will arrange for review by a team of experts of cleanup criteria and proposed disposal practice, to include a briefing of the team by Corps of Engineer staff knowledgeable of the disposal operations. This Committee will be convened by August 10 with Bruce Wachholz and Tom McCraw, acting as the staff of the Committee. Letters will be prepared for transmittal to each team member to confirm their charter.
- ✓ 4. Deal will develop a recommended plan for management of AES activities in the Marshall Islands by August 15.
5. Cowser will provide a revision to the existing MOU with DNA by August 15.