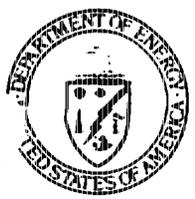


TOM



Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

APR 10 1997

His Excellency Banny de Brum
Ambassador of the Republic of
the Marshall Islands
Embassy of the Republic of
the Marshall Islands
2433 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador de Brum:

The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is organizing a "Workshop on Radiation Protection Decision-Making: The Dimension of its Societal Aspects." The workshop is sponsored by the NEA Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) and is tentatively proposed to be held on September 24-26, 1997, in Paris, France, at the Organization for Economic Headquarters, 2 rue Andre-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedix 16. A copy of the preliminary program agenda was provided to Ms. Holly Barker last month.

CRPPH, in establishing the importance of such a workshop, noted that "decision-making in several areas of radiation protection can less and less be made in isolation from its societal dimension." It is stressing the need for better integration of social requirements in major decisions that address radiation risk. CRPPH feels the workshop should improve the quality of the decision-making process involving radiation protection by sponsoring a program, which explores how to identify public concerns and the driving force behind these concerns, and how they could be included in the decision-making process. The program planned will be based on the theme of population protection actions in chronic exposure situations.

CRPPH has recommended that the Marshall Islands be the focus of one of the planned sessions. Tentative plans are to have Mr. Tom Bell of the Office of International Health Programs present an overview of what the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has been doing to assist the Marshallese people in providing the medical surveillance and care for the acutely exposed Rongelap and Utirik populations and to review the results of DOE's environmental monitoring activities, dose assessment initiatives, and agricultural and ecological mitigation studies program.

CRPPH has requested such a session be balanced with a presentation by a representative of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) who could provide the views of the Marshallese public, as well as those of the Marshallese affected by exposures to fallout from the atmospheric nuclear weapons tests.

I feel that this opportunity to make a presentation before an international forum of participants, such as this, would be an excellent way to provide RMI views on the societal aspects of their collective radiation exposure experience. I would like to recommend that either you or your staff participate personally at the workshop. While I regret that neither NEA nor DOE funds are available for this purpose, I encourage RMI to find the funding necessary to send a representative(s) to this workshop. The agenda is to be finalized on April 14, 1997, at the meeting of the CRPPH committee in Paris, France. The DOE representative for the meeting leaves on April 11, 1997. If we are to jointly be a part of this workshop, it is essential to know by April 10, 1997, if RMI wishes to attend and participate.

I hope you can participate in what appears to be an excellent opportunity for an important radiation health effects dialogue before an international community of participants. If you are unable to attend, my office would be willing to explore other opportunities with you and your staff to have input to this workshop. Please advise Mr. Bell or me by April 10, 1997, if you will be able to fund a participant to attend the workshop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Seligman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul J. Seligman, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Health Studies