Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

OCT 29 1998

Mayor James Matayoshi
Rongelap Atoll Local Government Council
Republic of the Marshall Islands
P.O. Box 1766
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mayor Matayoshi,

Thank you for your letter of October 28, 1998, regarding our November trip to Rongelap. Mr. William Jackson, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Field Operations Manager, informed me yesterday that you plan to meet us on Rongelap and show us around the island. I appreciate your taking the time to do this, and I look forward to this visit.

The reason for my wanting to visit Rongelap is to familiarize myself with the island, meet the people involved in the important work to resettle it, and spend time with you. It is not my intention to use the November trip as an occasion to locate a site for DOE trailer housing units. Such an action on DOE's part would be premature given that the proposed DOE/Rongelap Memorandum of Understanding has yet to be finalized.

I look forward to close cooperation and coordination between DOE and the Rongelap Atoll Local Government and its contractor as the Rongelap Resettlement Project progresses. I regret the apparent misunderstanding concerning the purpose of our visit to Rongelap next month. I very much look forward to spending that time with you and hearing your perspective on the future of the Rongelap Resettlement Project and related issues.

Sincerely,

Frank Hawkins
Director
Office of International
Health Programs

cc: Howard Hills, Esq.

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