

Tom



Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

October 8, 1999

The Honorable Phillip Muller
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Minister Muller:

This letter updates the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to make available documents relating to the health and environmental effects on the Marshallese people and atolls as a result of U.S. atmospheric nuclear tests. In 1993, DOE began extensive searches in our archival record holdings and that of our predecessor agency, the Atomic Energy Commission, for the purpose of openly disclosing this important information to the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). These searches were guided by a joint RMI/DOE working group and with routine input from representatives of the RMI and local atoll governments.

As promised, DOE has completed the mutually agreed on searches of its archival record holdings. The Marshall Islands-related documents identified during these exhaustive reviews spanning 7 years are now publicly available with the exception of some 350 documents still awaiting declassification. When declassification of these final documents is complete, they will be promptly released.

DOE is committed to full and open disclosure of previously unavailable records concerning atmospheric nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. Carrying out this commitment has made over 14,000 Marshall Islands-related documents (over 1,000,000 pages) publicly available. This substantial collection of information has been provided to you in hard copy, on CD-ROM, and on the Internet at www.eh.doe.gov/ihp/.

DOE also provides public access to over 300,000 atmospheric nuclear testing-related documents through the Coordination and Information Center (CIC) in Las Vegas, Nevada. As a final note, we are pleased to have recently concluded a \$45,000 grant to the Marshall Islands Embassy in Washington, D.C., to train Embassy personnel in archival search techniques and facilitate their access to and use of DOE's electronic filing system.



I believe we have achieved an important milestone with the completion of this work. I look forward to our continued collaboration to solve the many important issues confronting us.

Sincerely,



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Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Health Studies

cc: Ambassador Banny de Brum.
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The Honorable George Miller.
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