

**STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN NORM DICKS
HEARING ON RADIATION EXPOSURE FROM NUCLEAR TESTS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS**

FEBRUARY 24, 1994

Mr. Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to you for calling these hearings on a very important issue that has life and death implications for hundreds of people who were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation from atmospheric nuclear testing beginning in 1946.

I am especially concerned about the potential exposure to U.S. military personnel who were stationed in and around the Marshall Islands during this period. In addition, there have been questions raised with respect to radiation levels on Navy ships which subsequently returned to

the United States and may have exposed not only their crews, but federal civilian workers who overhauled these vessels to dangerous radiation levels.

I hope that as you review these events, you closely question representatives of the Department of Defense as well as the Department of Energy. Among the steps that should be given serious consideration is comprehensive testing of anyone who may have been exposed to these dangerous radiation levels.

Clearly, the federal government has a responsibility to fully inform, and to the extent feasible, provide treatment or compensation, for any individuals who have paid for these tests through years of suffering or early death. I stand ready to work closely with the Committee

**toward this end and again appreciate your
providing me this opportunity to appear.**