

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : C. L. Dunham, M. D., Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

720276

DATE: August 18, 1958

FROM : Gordon M. Dunning, Chief, Radiation Effects of Weapons Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine

SUBJECT: IMMEDIATE DOCUMENTATION FOR NTS ENVIRONS

SYMBOL: BMREW:GMD

Below is summarized the status of our immediate efforts to document further environmental contamination in southern Utah and south-eastern Nevada.

I. Soils.

- A. The 12 soil samples collected by Kermit Larson after Operation PLUMBBOB have been processed by Dr. Alexander and are now at HASL for analyses.
- B. Additional samples (about 12 more) have been collected by Kermit Larson this summer and UCLA has been requested to make the strontium-90 analyses on a priority basis.

II. Food Supply.

- A. ALOO and Las Vegas have agreed to collect samples from about a dozen human water supplies (raw and finished) and to make gross beta counts, and then send the highest two or three samples to Los Alamos for radiochemical analyses (we had suggested sending these to HASL, but either way is agreeable as long as the job is completed).
- B. ALOO and Las Vegas are now preparing a proposed effort of collecting and analyzing representative food samples.

III. Human Bone Collection.

- A. Informal discussions have been held with USPHS to have them undertake a program of human bone collection and analyses. Following a meeting on

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7-1 NTS

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August 7, 1958 USPHS are firming up a program which should come to us in a week or so.

IV. External Gamma Levels.

- A. Through the efforts of Mr. Robert L. Corsbie the Geological survey plane has extended its flights to measure external gamma levels in the key areas of southern Utah and southeastern Nevada.

cc: Dr. Shilling
Dr. Western
Dr. Wolfe
Mr. Corsbie
DMA, Attn: Col. Blue

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