

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DRAFT  
SW Josephson/ejc  
4/12/60

*4/10 Sent to GM  
by D. Ink.  
Progress  
check  
(4/21  
Sent to Chairman  
by G.M.)*

Dear Mr. Gates:

*mod 7 EPG (Test  
Planning)*

In Acting Chairman Floberg's August 29, 1959 letter to Secretary McElroy and in your October 29, 1959 letter to me the AEC and DoD established agreement that the Eniwetok Proving Ground (EPG) activity could be reduced in scope to a 12-month readiness status. That, of course, has since been accomplished.

Because the likelihood of resuming surface nuclear testing at EPG in the future is so small, Chief, DASA, Commander, JTF-7, and the Director of Military Application, AEC, last month appointed a Joint Study Group to reappraise requirements for EPG, and readiness status and functions of JTF-7. The report of that Joint Study Group, short title RETO, prepared on March 31, 1960, concluded, in part, that the EPG should be placed in a caretaker status. I concur in that conclusion and would like to implement it as soon as practicable in order to further reduce AEC costs at EPG.

In the coming months we may find that the AEC ~~programmatic~~ <sup>programmatic</sup> need for the EPG will disappear completely. If the Department of Defense has requirements for retaining Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls, it would be economically advantageous to arrange a non-reimbursable interdepartmental transfer of the plant facilities and the equipment out there before the AEC puts the Proving Ground in caretaker status. Otherwise, when the equipment and supplies now stored at EPG are declared excess, probably several million dollars worth will be disposed of -- equipment which might handily fulfill possible DoD requirements in the EPG.

Therefore, I would appreciate knowing <sup>by 15 May</sup> of your interest in ~~retaining~~ <sup>acquiring</sup>

the EPG for possible DoD use. Additionally if the DoD has no requirement

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| DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW | 1ST REVIEWER DATE: <i>4/12/60</i> | DETERMINATION (CIRCLE NUMBER(S))   |
|  | AUTHORITY: <i>DAOC</i>            | 1. CLASSIFICATION RETAINED         |
|  | NAME: <i>SW</i>                   | 2. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:      |
|  | 2ND REVIEWER DATE: <i>4/12/60</i> | 3. CONTAINS NO DOE CLASSIFIED INFO |
|  | AUTHORITY: <i>ADD</i>             | 4. COORDINATE WITH:                |
|  | NAME: <i>Josephson</i>            | 5. CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED        |
|  |                                   | 6. CLASSIFIED INFO BRACKETED       |

for the EPG, your concurrence is requested in removing <sup>a</sup> specified degree  
of readiness for test resumption there, so that the Commission can <sup>begin immediately to</sup> dispose  
of the equipment now stored in EPG and place the plant facilities in  
caretaker status until ← complete withdrawal is indicated.

Chalviza McLong

2091