



Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20545

DOE

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Those on Attached List

SUMMARY OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 22, 1977

Attending were: W. Burr, J. Deal, H. McCannnon, R. Catlin,  
W. Weyzen, R. Ray, J. Stewart, T. McCraw

Burr summarized past actions:

LLL Workshop, Review Committee, Transfer of Marshall Islands programs OES to BER, Creation of committee to advise AES on Pacific.

A memo is in progress to establish a committee composed of BER and OES and Wachholz to meet frequently and to be in place before DOE. This first meeting is ad hoc since no formal approval by AES.

Bob Catlin introduced - Assistant Director for Special Projects, BER. Relationship of committee to DOI in question. Deal to assume responsibility for coordinating committee activities with DOI.

The committee will:

1. Be aware of all Pacific program activities and will act as the point of coordination within the agency for all such activities.
2. Be responsible for program review - program directors will be asked for briefings. Ad hoc groups may be generated by the committee.
3. Advise AES on matters in the Pacific.

Committee will meet not less than once each 6 weeks and more often for particular problems.

Burr summarized background of AEC/ERDA problems in Pacific:

1. Took land, displaced people, accepted job of returning people to an environment acceptable for health and safety and with an economic base.
2. In the process, environment was altered appreciably and people were injured:
  - a) Medical followup needed to look for radiation effects.
  - b) Cleanup required:
    - (1) DOD responsible for cleanup;
    - (2) DOI responsible for rehabilitation;
    - (3) ERDA to provide technical advice to DOD and DOI:
      - (a) Provide cleanup criteria and recommendations;
      - (b) Support DOD field operations (reimbursable);
      - (c) Certify cleanup.
  - c) Long term radiological followup of people and environment.
  - d) ERDA to conduct 13 Atoll survey to establish whether there is impact of testing in the rest of the Marshalls:
    - (1) Conduct aerial screening survey, documentation of conditions with minimum ground survey;
    - (2) DOI obtained \$2.6M for DOD logistics support of survey;
    - (3) Depending on findings - do or do not do more.
  - e) Environmental programs:
    - (1) Garden on Enjebi Island Enewetak Atoll;
    - (2) Garden on Eneu Island Bikini Atoll;
    - (3) Liverman suggested economic program on what happens if coconuts not usable for copra.
  - f) Part of ERDA role is to determine if advice is sound and that precautions work and is resettlement proper (McCannon).

Weyzen asked, is the ERDA role strictly advisory to DOI?  
Answer - Strict interpretation is to advise, but ERDA must sometimes do more such as in the medical area.

ERDA has responsibility to make sure our advice is understood. The people most affected must understand also (Deal). There must be feedback from people and we must followup on recommendations. Question asked whether programs involving sociologists are needed. Agreement that experts are needed in every area of endeavor but we should do nothing that would appear to release TT from their responsibility for welfare of people in the Marshalls. The committee should be responsible for developing policy for DOE and to coordinate closely with DOI. We should take every opportunity to influence Trust Territory thinking. However, when we talk about sociologists and economists we go beyond just ERDA's responsibilities (Ray). Winkle, the new High Com, expects continuing advice from ERDA in dynamic situations to help him make decisions. Although much time has been spent trying to inform DOI and TT, many times they go ahead with their plans without us.

Fifty more people want to go back to Bikini. The pressure to return is on DeBrum from the people themselves. We don't expect to learn much more about Bikini and Eneu Islands from the aerial survey but more will be learned about other islands in the atoll for which there is now little info. This aerial survey has been cited as something that must be done before people return to Bikini (McCraw).

As for urgency to move people from Bikini to Eneu Islands, there is no urgency if people are not relying on a Bikini Island diet. It should be relatively easy to provide food (Ray). There was disagreement on this point. No fresh foods are being provided, only dry products. When body burdens of  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  are again measured in December they will probably be as high or higher than in May and some people are already at or above the MPC right now (McCraw). A short term solution to the fresh food problem is needed. The High Com should be informed of this.

Regarding Pu in Bikini urine, when Greenhouse, BNL, goes out in October, five people will live on the LCU while urine is sampled to get better control of sample collection conditions. Concern was expressed for what impact this may have on the people and whether

an understandable explanation can be given. An education program is needed. Someone from DOI/TT should go along on these visits. Need for a bilingual person was stated, possibly someone on the TT staff paid by ERDA. Nidu at BNL could help if he has a translator. There is need to review protocol for this work.

There is a need to evaluate the problem of radionuclides in copra. Question on whether U. of Washington could study this. BER will see what can be done. The problem should be brought to DOI attention.

The status of 13 Atoll survey was reviewed. There is a new Navy contact - have met with him three times trying to get the planning done that is needed to do the job. There must be a minimum number of ground samples collected to verify aerial data and some quantity of marine, terrestrial food and ground water sampling is needed to calculate dose. After designing the aerial survey, will use what is available in time and resources to get the rest of the data. The problem is, OMB has said ERDA should eat its costs of 1.2M of which one half is flying costs.

Enewetak cleanup was discussed. Question - How do we influence the DNA approach to cleanup wherein the cleanup commander will place the highest priority for cleanup of Pu (in soil) on Runit Island? Cleanup of soil Pu is to start on islands in the north. DNA will hold back funds to cover Runit cleanup such that another more important cleanup job such as Enjebi, a prospective village island, may not be satisfactorily completed. Question - If Enjebi is not cleaned up, what has been accomplished for the people? NV will host (not chair) a DNA meeting in early October to try to better define Runit cleanup. ERDA staff had never expected such a high priority be given to Runit cleanup, particularly at the expense of cleanup of other areas more important to the people.

Question - Should we talk to DNA, write letters, what? Possibly the best approach is to have DOI ask DNA the right question. One approach to try is to get DOI staff to set up a briefing for Winkle and surface the issue that way. Followup on this is needed quickly (Burr).

Regarding revalidation of EPA agreement with AEC cleanup criteria, Wachholz has a draft memo - Liverman to Costel. The committee briefly reviewed this draft. Comments are to be provided to Wachholz.

Japtan people are leaving Enewetak October 1 for Ujelang. Four hundred fifty people will rotate in fifty man visits to Japtan in 6 month cycles until cleanup is completed (Ray).

OES will have a group periodically review NV support of Enewetak cleanup and particularly certification of cleanup (Deal).

ERDA will get Coast Guard Bldg. at Enewetak for a lab facility. 25K will be needed for modifications to make a quick move from the old lab facility (Ray).

The question of information and education for various Marshall Islands groups was again discussed. Trimble, Battelle, Seattle, has proposed that baseline information be obtained on where these people are in their understanding of what ERDA is doing. Communications across cultural lines are extremely difficult. A joint info-education program with DOI is needed. A copy of the Trimble letter will be sent to Weyzen and Ray.

Conard has found 11 to 12 thyroids that should be sent back to Hawaii for operations (not among the exposed people but once found something must be done). The possibility of having the operations done on Kwajalein will be investigated by BER.

The next committee meeting will be scheduled in mid-November. Any corrections to these notes may be made at that time.



Tommy F. McCraw  
Acting Secretary

cc: J. Liverman  
H. Hollister

