

DEC 2 1968

Lt.Col. A. A. Gomes, Division of Military Application

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR BIKINI RE-SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

With regard to your request for comments on the subject plan, the following problem areas have been identified:

1. The statement on reasons behind AEC interest in this project on page 4 is an incorrect view of the Commission's role and responsibilities for tests at Bikini.
2. The plan makes no use of or provision for the AEC recommendations on measures needed to minimize radiation exposures for the returning population as provided by the Ad Hoc group convened by EM.
3. There are at least two places, pages 2 and 13, where the plan is used as a vehicle for establishing Federal policy on the matter of disposition of lands within the Trust Territory now utilized by the U. S. One statement is broadened to cover any land now used by the U. S. Government.

The suggested changes and additions in the attachment are intended to avoid these problems.

Original signed by
T. F. McCraw

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Tommy F. McCraw
Nuclear Explosives Environmental
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Enclosure:

Suggested Changes and
Additions to Bikini
Re-Settlement Program

cc v/encl:

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1227; "ERDA# 2"

FOLDER

BIKINI SURVEY (Bio-med)
07 THRU 12/1968

Attachment

The following comments apply to the proposed Bikini re-settlement program as appended to the letter, David S. Black, Secretary of the Interior to Charles J. Zwick, Director, Bureau of the Budget, dated November 8, 1968, with copies to the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Defense.

Page 1, par. 2. Change to read....The President's announcement was based upon a finding that exposure to radiation that would likely result from repatriation of the Bikini people does not offer a significant threat to their health and safety and that these exposures may and should be reduced by taking certain simple precautions.

Page 2, par. 1. The statement on a U. S. obligation regarding return of land to civilian use is superfluous since the decision in this case has already been made. Suggest deletion of this paragraph.

Page 2, par. 1. Split into two paragraphs and change to read.... The islands of Bikini atoll are greatly changed as a consequence of the tests which were conducted there in the late 1940's and the 1950's. Some islands have disappeared or the remnants are mere sand spits; still others have been diminished in size as a result of blast effects and/or wave action; and loss of topsoil for the islands of the atoll varies from zero to almost 100%. While it has been determined that the island complex from Bikini to Enau is safe for continuous habitation, radiation levels in the other parts of the atoll precludes continuous use. These other islands and island complexes may be visited for purposes of food collection (bird, turtles, their eggs, etc.), but present conditions on these islands precludes substantial agricultural development at this time.

Bikini and Enau are overgrown with a jungle-like stand of scrub vegetation which will sustain neither subsistence nor commerce. This vegetation must be cleared and the two islands replanted to coconuts and other food crops. Additionally, most of the islands are.....etc.

Page 4, par. 1. Change to read....The Atomic Energy Commission has an interest because the Commission, under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and its amendments, is given certain responsibilities to protect health and minimize danger to life or property from hazards that may be associated with activities in which AEC has

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a role. The Department of Defense is another interested agency since the research and development work in the military application of atomic energy at Bikini atoll was jointly conducted by DoD and AEC under direction of the highest levels of the U. S. Government. The Bikini atoll was under military jurisdiction.....etc.

Page 6, par. 2. Following the August-September survey trip the Atomic Energy Commission prepared.....etc.

Page 7, par. 2. Change to read.....These people were removed from Eniwetok shortly after removal of the people from Bikini. The Eniwetok people were resettled on the.....etc.

Page 7, par. 3. Change to read....The total resettlement program for Bikini, including clearing, redevelopment over a five year period, plus the essential improvements to the Kili.....etc.

Page 8, 1st sentence. Change to read.....Survival would be difficult and the redevelopment of Bikini, without support of modern equipment and methods, would be a painfully slow process covering many years. This approach would be inconsistent.....etc.

Page 9, par. 1. Change to read....Cleanup and redevelopment of facilities to accommodate.....etc.

Page 9, last par. Change to read....coconut groves and other food crops. Planting of pandanus trees on Bikini will be accomplished according to the AEC recommendation for removal of two inches of topsoil from each site over an area covered by the crown of mature trees. No radiological precautions will be needed on Eneu. The 4,500 foot airstrip.....etc.

Page 10, par. 1. Change to read....Clearing of other islands of test related debris should follow.....etc.....clearing will consist of removal of test related debris, particularly.....etc.

Page 10, par. 2. Change to read....The island of Bikini was the population center....etc.

Page 11, top of page. Change to read.....Each unit will consist of the dwelling itself, cistern, bath house, toilet, cook house, etc. The village center and housing unit construction on Bikini island will

involve covering these sites with coral rock as recommended by the AEC. Cost estimates.....etc.

Page 11, par. 1. Change to read....pending the maturation of commercial and food crops. However, one of the important reasons for a feeding subsidy is to insure both an adequate and properly balanced diet for the Bikini residents in order to minimize uptake of radionuclides as has been recommended by AEC.

Page 12, par. 2. This item on establishing a general principle concerning the disposition of lands within the Trust Territory is not relevant to this plan wherein the decision has been made to return Bikini atoll to its owners. The inclusion of this item as a "major objective" could expose the plan to an added complication that is otherwise avoidable. Suggest deletion of paragraph 2.

Page 12, par. 3. Change to read....Implement a sound redevelopment program for Bikini atoll which will make.....etc.

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