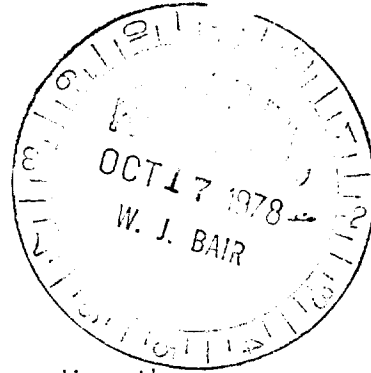


Date October 13, 1978

To W. J. Bair

From R. O. Gilbert

R. O. Gilbert



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Subject Draft Letter to Hal Hollister Regarding the
Advisory Group Meeting in Denver on October 3-4, 1978

Following are comments and suggested changes.

1. Planting of Coconuts on Northern Islands of Enewetak
 - a) L. J. Deal's letter to Vice Admiral R. R. Monroe was dated September 29, not September 9, 1978.
 - b) I think we should indicate the major thrust of L. J. Deal's letter rather than just refer to it. We might consider adding the following quote from Deal's letter: "We do not recommend planting any coconuts on the Northern Islands this planting season."
 - c) The first sentence gives the impression that the present cleanup must be completed before a final decision can be made regarding permissible degree of occupancy. Although this is strictly true, I'm concerned that this will reinforce the apparent tendency for DOE to refrain from making continuing assessments as the cleanup progresses. If I remember correctly, Jack Healy expressed the opinion at the Denver meetings that assessments should be made periodically before the cleanup is finished so that needed data can be collected before the military cleanup crew departs.
 - d) We might consider deleting "which would have unfortunate public relations repercussion." While this statement is true, its inclusion detracts from the primary concern for the health of the island inhabitants.

2. Cleanup Guidance for Subsurface Contamination

No mention is made of who is supposed to make situation-specific judgments. By suggesting that in certain situations the OPLAN conditions may be laid aside we have opened Pandora's Box without giving guidance

as to how the potential ills so released can be controlled. In this particular case regarding subsurface contamination, I agree that the OPLAN is not adequate to meet the situation and agree with the draft recommendations regarding Boken and Enjebi.

3. Enjebi Experimental Farm

I believe we should delete any mention of the Enjebi farm in this letter to Hal Hollister since no one familiar with the design and operation of the farm was present at our Denver meeting to answer questions. Our concerns with regard to numbers of samples, the feasibility of adequate maintenance of the farm, and the overall integration of the farm's operation into the radiological hazard assessment for the Enewetak Atoll should be discussed with those familiar and/or responsible for the farm's design and operation before we raise the issue with Hal Hollister. Once we know the facts then we could consider whether the situation warrants action by the Advisory Group. It's clear that we need a meeting in the near future with Bill Robison, Bob Watters, and perhaps others who are familiar with the objectives and operation of the farm.

4. Plowing Experiment

- a) I suggest we include Pu and Am along with ^{90}Sr and ^{137}Cs as being possibly more available to roots as a result of plowing.
- b) Since there appears to be no plans for Sr and Cs uptake studies on plowed and unplowed areas, our 2nd sentence from the end implies the Advisory Group will never address the issue of plowing in the future. Is this what we want to say? I doubt it. I think we should recommend that such uptake studies be done on the plowed-unplowed plots of Enjebi, preferably as part of an expanded effort at the Enjebi experimental farm. If logistics prevent the successful supervision of this site in the future, then other more accessible areas, perhaps on Eneu Island, should be considered for plowing and uptake experiments.

5. General Comments on Proposed Letter

I'm concerned that the draft letter does not convey the general sense of frustration I felt was evident among the members of the Advisory Group at the Denver meeting. My own frustration stems from the feeling that our recommendations to Hal Hollister have little if any effect, and that we are asked to give guidance on technical matters when we don't have the resources to properly gather and evaluate the available information. I agree with the opinions expressed in item 14 of Bill Templeton's memo to you dated October 6, 1978, on the need for DOE position papers on technical issues, and for action by someone on integrated management and control of the entire North Marshall Islands radiological effort.

REPOSITORY PNNL
COLLECTION Marshall Islands
BOX No. 5686
FOLDER Eniwetok Oct-Sept 1978

DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN ECI

Reviewed by A. S. Skuett Date 4/30/97