

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

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UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
NUCLEAR DIVISION

410139



POST OFFICE BOX X
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830

September 10, 1979

Dr. Bruce W. Wachholz
Policy Analysis Division
Office of Environment EV-21
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Bruce:

RE: Draft letter to DOI

In my opinion, DOE should be considered about the long-term effects of planting coconuts on the northern islands of Enewetak. Or specifically, why should we encourage or condone the planting of crops whose products are going to be contaminated. We know the coconuts are not suitable to eat in their fresh state, and its questionable that the oil is free of contamination. We know the coconuts cannot be processed at present commercial facilities, and if a separate facility was constructed to process contaminated coconuts, would they be accepted on the world market? Even more important is, how would the other coconut processors view this type of an operation? In my opinion, DOE and in particular the Office of Environment, should not encourage practices that would enhance the movement of radionuclides to the food chain to man. I do not question the LLL dose estimates (remember that is all they are) with regard to potential dose or possible health hazards; I am concerned, however, that in planting coconuts (or condoning the practice), avenues for further contamination will be opened, resulting in possible excessive exposures and further criticism of DOE's and USA's policies in the Marshall Islands.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. W. Francis".

C. W. Francis
Senior Research Scientist
Environmental Sciences Division

CWF:sw

cc: Marshall Island Committee

REPOSITORY PNNL
COLLECTION Marshall Islands
BOX No. 5686
FOLDER Enwetah Presentation to
PNL Management

DOCUMENT DOES NOT CONTAIN ECI
Reviewed by B. Squella Date 4/30/97