



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

Mr. Fawcett

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Memorandum for the Record

CLEANUP CRITERIA FOR ENIWETOK

This subject has been discussed at considerable length at the working level and also between General Camm and Dr. Biles. Dr. Leachman of DNA prepared certain proposals which were forwarded by the Director, DNA and which have received extensive review within DMA, DOS, and DBER. The general thesis advanced by DNA has been to use earlier precedents such as Bikini, Palomares, and Thule. This approach has not been determined to be entirely acceptable within the AEC Headquarters Staff because these precedents may not be fully applicable. The alternative suggested to DNA has been that for their preliminary planning purposes, they should use a range of criteria as the basis for preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and for estimation of funding requirements for the cleanup operation.

In reference to the specific proposals advanced by Dr. Leachman the general consensus within the AEC has been that while they may be in the ball park, there does not appear to be any basis for more relaxed standards and, in fact, standards may need to be more severe. Thus, the range of values alluded to above appears most appropriate until we can refine our position after completion of the evaluation of the results of the currently on-going radiological survey.

There has also been, within the AEC, some difference in opinion as to the appropriate administrative method to be used to establish cleanup criteria. One school of thought advanced primarily by DBER personnel has been that a group convened by, but external to, the AEC should be retained as consultants to the Commission to review the radiological situation based on evaluated survey data and from this make recommendations concerning rehabilitation of the atoll. Based on these recommendations, DOS would then establish the criteria for cleanup. However, at a meeting between General Camm and Dr. Biles on January 16, 1973, it became apparent that Dr. Biles strongly confirmed the position stated in his memorandum to General Camm dated September 15, 1972 that DOS would provide the radiological cleanup criteria and guidelines and would solicit appropriate outside assistance only as necessary. It was agreed that normal staffing with

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other agencies, such as EPA, and the reports of the survey, including that of the Radiological Assessment Review Group, would be sufficient to support a Commission judgment on rehabilitation. This position was concurred in and accepted by General Camm and it is now presumed that this position serves as the basis for our continued effort in this area. General Camm requested that he be advised by Dr. Biles regarding the format which these cleanup criteria and guidelines might be expected to take. He also requested that he be advised as to the procedural steps and milestones established under these criteria and guidelines. Dr. Biles stated that he would provide this information in about one month, i.e., about mid February 1973.

Dr. Biles went on to point out several aspects of the problem which he believed to be very significant. These are: (1) He would not want to jump to any conclusions without adequate knowledge; (2) There must be full consideration given to the interrelationship and reinforcement between biological factors and external dose; (3) Plutonium resuspension may well be a very significant biological factor, therefore, he was quite concerned with the fairly unsophisticated approach taken by DNA in their initial proposal that cleanup might be accomplished simply by turning of the soil. The reason for this, of course, is that the contamination present already has a considerable profile in depth, therefore, plowing the soil might well be ineffective. More than that, plowing would probably destroy the very thin soil which exists on Pacific Atolls, such as Eniwetok.

In summary, with respect to development of the criteria, Dr. Biles affirmed that DOS would be responsible for the formulation and staffing of the cleanup criteria and guidelines and that these should be available about two months after the completion of the Radiological Assessment Review Group effort. The criteria would have the general format of a full and complete study for each island in the Atoll and consider the specific situation there. Certain assumptions would be made with regard to life style of the native population, biological uptake, housing, and the like, in order to arrive at judgments as to the utilization of specific areas or conversely protective measures which would have to be taken.

(signed)

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