

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY

402913

AND THE

ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

REGARDING THE INTERAGENCY SUPPORT FOR CLEANUP OF ENEWETAK ATOLL

1. GENERAL

On 30 November 1972, the Director, Defense Nuclear Agency, was designated as the Department of Defense Project Manager for matters concerning the proposed cleanup of Enewetak Atoll.

Based on an engineering survey by the Department of Defense (DOD) and a radiological survey by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) (now the Energy Research and Development Administration), a proposed scheme was developed to clean up the atoll in accordance with guidelines for radiological cleanup recommended by the AEC. The Environmental Impact Statement was issued on 15 April 1975. The DOD FY 1976 Military Construction request asks for initial authorization and funding for the cleanup project, and indicates follow-on requests for FY 1977 and FY 1978 are programmed.

It is the intent of the DNA and ERDA that the cleanup of Enewetak will remove and will dispose of the radiological hazard so that a safe resettlement of the people can be accomplished. It is not possible to reduce the radioactive contamination to pre-test levels. It is possible and feasible, however, to rehabilitate the atoll in a manner that will assure the safety of the returning people by employing certain minimal and acceptable restrictions on land use and locally grown foods, and by

maintaining a continuing surveillance of the residual radioactivity, including that which is in the environment and that which is collected and placed on land, in craters and in the lagoon. The guidelines for radiological cleanup recommended by AEC/ERDA are based on Federal standards, and are designed to provide the lowest practicable radiation dose to the future inhabitants of Enewetak Atoll.

Accordingly, it is the purpose of the Defense Nuclear Agency, hereinafter referred to as "DNA," as represented by the Deputy Director for Operations and Administration, DNA, and the Energy Research and Development Administration, hereinafter referred to as "ERDA," as represented by the Assistant Administrator for Environment and Safety, to enter into this agreement to define the technical support ERDA is to provide DNA and likewise to define the support DNA is to provide ERDA and its contractors during the time DNA is actively engaged in cleanup operations at Enewetak Atoll. The determination as to when the DOD cleanup activities have been successfully completed will be a joint DNA/ERDA decision. When determination has been made that the DNA cleanup phase is complete or upon transfer of the base support activity to another agency, whichever comes first, DNA support responsibilities on Enewetak will terminate and continued support for ERDA and DNA activities must then be obtained from other sources. Thus, the long-term radiological surveillance and necessary actions by both agencies deriving therefrom must be the subject of subsequent agreements.

The obligations assumed by either party under the terms of this agreement are contingent upon the funding of the proposed cleanup project by the Congress. If no funds are made available or funds should cease to be

available for timely accomplishment of this project, the obligations of the respective parties under the terms of this agreement shall terminate.

2. AGREEMENT

DNA and ERDA, desiring to discharge their responsibilities for supporting the program for Cleanup, Rehabilitation, and Resettlement of Enewetak Atoll, do hereby mutually agree as follows:

a. Energy Research and Development Administration

Agrees to provide, either directly or through its contractors, technical and scientific advice and assistance to DNA on radiological activities associated with the cleanup operation, including but not limited to:

- (1) Furnishing advice and assistance to DNA in the preparation of the radiological cleanup plan and the radiological safety program.
- (2) Interfacing with other Federal agencies supporting radiological monitoring, sampling, evaluation, research, and testing involved in the cleanup operation.
- (3) Providing an official ERDA representative(s), without reimbursement by DNA, who will be present on the atoll during the cleanup. The ERDA representative will advise the DNA Enewetak Atoll Commander (Cleanup Project Coordinator) on schedules and procedures and recommend changes thereto as needed, and provide a certification when radiological

cleanup meeting the guidelines established by the AEC(ERDA) in their Task Group Report has been accomplished.

- (4) Performing, with full reimbursement from DNA, radiological support for the cleanup operation to include (but not limited to):
- (a) Day-to-day field monitoring, dosimetry and recordkeeping pertaining to health and safety of cleanup personnel and other atoll residents and visitors.
  - (b) Radiological classification of material for removal, disposal, or re-use.
  - (c) Certification, on an island-by-island basis, when radiological cleanup meeting the guidelines established by the AEC/ERDA in their Task Group Report has been accomplished.
  - (d) Establishment, operation, and maintenance of a field laboratory to support the above functions.

b. Defense Nuclear Agency

Agrees to accomplish the cleanup and disposition of hazardous radioactive and physical debris substantially in accordance with good engineering practice and the criteria contained in the Environmental Impact Statement entitled "Cleanup, Rehabilitation, Resettlement of Enewetak Atoll, Marshall Islands," April 1975. Further, DNA agrees to provide coordination, direction, and base

support, as available, to ERDA and its contractors when supporting the DNA Enewetak cleanup operation, including but not limited to:

- (1) An Atoll Commander (Project Coordinator) and staff to serve as a single point of contact with the various components of the DOD on matters related to the cleanup project.
- (2) Housing and subsistence for personnel of ERDA and its contractors, who are required at Enewetak in support of the DNA cleanup, on the same basis as for employees of DNA and its contractors.
- (3) Intra-atoll transportation, with intra-atoll air transport allocated on a priority basis, as determined by the Atoll Commander.
- (4) Long haul transportation as available.
- (5) General medical service at Enewetak dispensary, including medical evacuation.
- (6) Communication support, including mail and message center support, on Enewetak Island; telephone and, when available, long haul communications, to the extent authorized by and in accordance with applicable DOD directives and instructions.
- (7) Office, laboratory, warehouse, and storage space.
- (8) Refueling support for vehicles and watercraft when supporting the cleanup operations.

- (9) Common use utilities at Enewetak Island; namely, electric power, water, and sewer service.
- (10) Personnel services, i.e., chaplain, recreation, clubs, post exchanges, when available, to the extent authorized by and in accordance with applicable DOD directives and instructions. Provision of special support requirements of either DNA or ERDA, not otherwise agreed upon, will be resolved on a case-by-case basis.

c. ERDA Programmatic Activities at Enewetak

Concurrent with, but independent of, the supporting role as delineated in subparagraph a. above, ERDA will be pursuing certain programmatic activities at Enewetak which will be supported by DNA to the extent such support is determined available by the DNA Enewetak Atoll Commander with reimbursement from ERDA. Should there be any question as to the character of an ERDA-sponsored project on Enewetak, it will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Among ERDA programmatic activities are the following:

- (1) In coordination with the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), ensure that the necessary baseline data pertinent to the radiological protection of the returning Enewetak people is established.
- (2) Conducting biomedical and environmental monitoring and research on Enewetak Atoll, to include but not limited to:

- (a) Agricultural research and experimentation, including test planting of pandanus, breadfruit, coconut, arrowroot, and other items.
  - (b) Marine and terrestrial food chain sampling.
  - (c) Lens water sampling and analysis.
  - (d) Air sampling and analysis.
  - (e) Operation of the Mid-Pacific Marine Laboratory.
- (3) Advising appropriate officials in DOI and DOD of significant changes in the radiological conditions of Enewetak Atoll in the long term. An example is advising when and under what conditions it would be safe for people to establish permanent residence on Enjebi Island.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the day and year indicated.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY

ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
ADMINISTRATION

APPROVED 28 Aug 1975 Date

APPROVED: Sept 10, 1975 Date

By W. E. Shedd  
W. E. SHEDD  
Major General, USA  
Deputy Director  
(Operations and Administration)

By James L. Liverman  
James L. Liverman  
Assistant Administrator  
for Environment and Safety

must be "cleaned up" before the displaced tribes can return. Some of this debris is radioactive and it is planned to dump this debris in a crater left from the tests and cap it with concrete. The remaining debris is in the form of buildings, piers and ships left over from World War II as well as the testing period, and constitutes a safety hazard and is an obstruction to orderly resettlement. The Fiscal Year 1976 request was for \$14.1 million as the first increment of a \$40 million cleanup program. In addition to cleanup costs it is estimated that the Department of the Interior will require over \$10 million to resettle the tribes on Enewetak.

The Committee debated this question at length. The Department was asked to develop the most austere cost estimate possible which envisioned the use of U.S. troops (Army engineers or Navy Seabees) who are trained in nuclear decontamination and whose use should provide substantial cost savings. The least cost estimate provided by the Department which would accomplish the minimum required cleanup was \$25 million.

The Committee agreed to a one time authorization of \$20 million to accomplish the cleanup. The Department is charged to accomplish the cleanup within that amount using every possible economy measure. The Committee insists that radiation standards established by the Energy Research and Development Agency be met before any resettlement is accomplished. Although the moral obligation to permit the Enewetak people to return to their atoll was a major consideration, the Committee's decision was based primarily on the premise that the United States cannot walk away from a testing program that cost several billion dollars without making a responsible effort to restore the atoll to the degree that it can be made habitable.

#### *Trident*

The Fiscal Year 1976 request contains \$187 million for the continued construction of the Trident support facility at Bangor, Washington. The Congress has authorized over \$200 million since FY 73 for the construction of this facility and the Committee is pleased to note that progress at the site is good. The total cost of the facility is now reported to be \$657 million, an increase of \$27 million over the total estimate provided by the Navy last year, which results primarily from the additional requirement to furnish community assistance funds as provided for in the Fiscal year 1975 Act. The Department once again assured the Committee that the single site at Bangor would service the entire Trident requirement for the foreseeable future.

#### *Relocatable Construction—Korea*

The committee indorses the Army program of constructing relocatable quarters from prefabricated buildings in Korea. This approach should prove to be cost effective if U.S. units are relocated within Korea or returned to the U.S. The committee expects that the concept of relocatable facilities be considered at all overseas locations as part of the normal planning process.

#### *Fort Polk—Mineral Rights*

The committee approved an Army request to purchase the mineral rights at Fort Polk, Louisiana. There is serious question that the

Senate Armed Services  
Committee Rpt. 94-157  
Sub: Military Construction  
Authorization, Fiscal Year  
1976, dated 22 May 1975,  
Page 10.

(EXTRACT FROM SENATE ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE REPORT 94-157)