



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

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Safety & Environmental Protection Division

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July 3, 1979

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
COLLECTION DOE/ANV
BOX No. 1236
FOLDER ANV FOLDER # 2
BIOASSAY/Whole Body
Counting FY 1979

Mr. William J. Stanley, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Pacific Area Support Office
P.O. Box 29939
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

Dear Bill:

Our recent field trip to Majuro and Kili was highly successful thanks to the cooperation and assistance received from your office, Holmes and Narver, and the new Marshall Island Government. Wilfred Koga and Louise Sutton did an outstanding job. Even with the United strike and the DC-10 problem, all of our equipment and samples have arrived at BNL.

On this trip, we had the pleasure of working with Harry Brown. Harry provided invaluable services and relieved us of many logistic and political problems which would have extended our trip and taxed our limited manpower. We owe Harry a tremendous vote of thanks for the assistance that he gave us. We also commend the support services received from PASO during the early part of our trip when additional electronic components were requisitioned. Knowing that the parts were available in a day's notice was most reassuring to us in the field.

We received excellent support from the Marshallese government. The Public Works Department was capable of repairing one of the air conditioners in the whole body counting trailer. The ship chartered for our trip to Kili was dependable, safely operated, and efficiently run by the captain and his crew. The electricians at Jabor Jaliut although troubled by our power requirements initially, were capable of providing us with adequate power. Again we can't speak too highly of Harry Brown for his manner and ability to negotiate for all of the above services provided by the Marshallese.

Our field trip began in Majuro on May 13, 1979. Our progress that day and May 14 included initial instrument set up, the arrangement of taxi service to Ejit and a discussion with the Marshallese on the topic of scheduled field activities. Whole body counting of former Bikini Atoll residents commenced on May 15 and continued until May 18. During this time, 97 Marshallese were counted and a significant fraction of those persons participated in the urine bioassay sampling program.

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On May 18 and 19 the trailer was moved to the M.V. Marshall Islands and stored in the ship's hold. By the evening of May 19 we had departed for Kili. Due to lack of sufficient electrical power, it wasn't possible to count people on Kili Island. Consequently, we transported those former Bikini Atoll residents who decided to participate in our urine and whole body counting bioassay program to Jabor Jaliut. On May 21 we counted 15 persons from Kili and 17 persons from Jabor-Jaliut. We returned to Kili on May 22 and to Majuro early in the morning of May 23.

As the result of this trip, a total of 129 Marshallese were whole body counted and approximately 75 urine samples were received. Of those counted, we estimate that 79 individuals were part of the population removed from Bikini in August 1978.

This last trip has resulted in proposed modifications concerning trip procedures. We hope to follow the suggested procedures outlined in Harry Brown's June 4, 1979 report to you.

In our June 5, 1978 trip report we outlined several areas of general repair which the whole body counting trailer needed. Those repairs were never made and now the conditions are far worse and extremely dangerous to work in. The windows remain broken and the roof leaks more than before. Not only is this water damaging our equipment during operations, but the water drains from the electric light fixtures and plugs and presents a high hazard potential for fire and electrical shock. In addition, the constant water leaks have resulted in an area located in front of the shield, which has rotted almost through the sub-flooring. The residence side of the trailer is not habitable if rain is expected and should no longer be used for anything but "wet" storage. All of these conditions result in an unsafe work environment.

Harry Brown stated that he would commence looking for a new trailer upon his return to Honolulu. We request that this search be expedited. As you know, we are anticipating a trip to Utirik, Rongelap and Enewetak August 25 to September 15. This trip could definitely be the old trailer's demise. It would be timely to discuss the design and procurement of a new trailer in August.

In conclusion, I would again like to thank all persons who were involved with this trip for a job well done. I'm looking forward to our next meeting.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Miltenberger

RPM/jwe

cc N. A. Greenhouse
E. T. Lessard

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