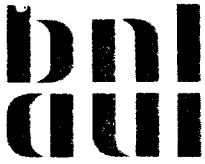


6/9/77



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

Safety & Environmental Protection Division

ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC	
JUN 9 1977	Upton, New York 11973
DIRECTOR	Admin. Assistant (516) 345-4250
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PROGRAM SPECIALIST	
SEND COPY TO:	
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JA/SITE MGT. REP.	
EA/SITE MGT. REP.	
REMARKS:	Joe Marshall - 10 see file in 6/28 in 6/29 6/28

Mr. W. J. Stanley
 U. S. Energy Research &
 Development Administration
 PASO
 Box 29939
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

Dear Bill:

Once again we are offering our heartfelt thanks for the support which we received from PASO and Global Associates on our May trip to the Marshalls. Ted Murawski demonstrated his wizardry in bypassing red tape, and provided electrician support for our air sampling station which was installed at Kwajalein. We decided against making a temporary air sampler installation at Roi-Namur on this trip in favor of a permanent station to be installed there in October.

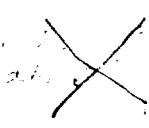
The ship maintenance in dry dock was completed in time for us to leave a day earlier than we anticipated; and, as it happens, this was time well saved since it relieved the pressure on making our return date to Kwajalein. Josh Johnston and the crew provided us with first class transportation and assistance on station. This had to be one of the most pleasant voyages that I can recall, thanks to the personable and efficient skipper and crew.

Our work at Utirik focused on the siting of the wind generator and air sampling station, the installation of which is planned for this fall. We were hampered somewhat by the fact that our visit was not anticipated due to the Utirik radio station being off the air for about six months. The magistrate was also away at Majuro trying to procure a new generator to power the radio station. We were, however, able to locate a spokesman who arranged an ideal site for our monitoring station. Also, as a good will gesture, we decided to leave our small gasoline-powered generator at Utirik on loan until they can have their generator repaired or procure a new one. It seemed important that they have radio contact with the outside in the event of an emergency.

REPOSITORY DOE/PASO
 COLLECTION DOE/NV
 BOX No. 1228, "ERDA #3"
Bio-med, Dr. CONRAD
 FOLDER 01 thru 09/1977

5051892

P.N.

At Rongelap, we completed our comprehensive external radiation exposure rate survey, which was begun in October 1976, but was hampered at that time because of transportation problems. The wind generator/air monitoring station siting was discussed at a village meeting where the purpose for the planned installation was presented. We offered our siting preferences, but the people wished to reserve decision on the exact site, and to let us know of their choice by mail after further deliberation. The village meetings are always open forums for discussion of radiation-related concerns, and it was apparent that Jan Naidu's visit earlier this year had been very effective in allaying many of their fears and enhancing their understanding of radiation protection standards and practices. A continuing concern, however, is the ban on the use of the northern islands of Rongelap atoll, and the desire for compensation for denial of their use. 

The first of two air sampling stations was installed in the old camp area at Bikini. It is powered five to six hours a day by the local diesel generator which, unfortunately, developed mechanical problems before our departure. We are prepared to install a third wind generator at Bikini if access to reliable A.C. power threatens to become a continuing problem; however, the difficulty appeared to be minor (replacement of brushes), so we are still planning on the use of the Bikini diesel generator to power both air sampling stations.

The village meeting on our last day at Bikini illustrated a continuing problem which warrants some serious thought about the conduct of all ERDA programs in the Marshalls. That is the worry and anxiety which the people experience on hearing (often conflicting) comments about radiation-related problems on their islands. Off-handed comments about restrictions on certain food items, or whole body counting results, or radiation levels in the environment are often interpreted by the people as portending imminent and dire health consequences. I believe it essential that "unofficial" comments in these areas be avoided, and that official information from ERDA program visitors be consistent, accurate, and well thought out from the standpoint of Marshallese interpretation. It is also urgent that some sort of publication in Marshallese be provided at Bikini, Rongelap, and Utirik which explains basic concepts of radiation and radioactivity, the natural radiation environment and man-made additions to it, the biological effects of radiation, radiation risks and basic radiation protection principles, and finally the radiation protection standards. The communications gap is merely aggravated by the language barrier. Of greater importance is the fact that the concept of radiation, though quite familiar to ERDA visitors, is a totally foreign idea to the Marshallese, who must adopt the English words to even discuss it. I am afraid that if we do not correct this communications gap and diligently address the educational needs of the Marshallese on this subject, we will be doing a grave disservice to them, and jeopardizing the success of ERDA programs in the Marshalls.

5051893

June 7, 1977

I plan to attend the LCU user's meeting at LLL during the week of June 27. We had requested time in the FY 78 schedule in a previous letter to PASO. I would like to ammend the original request by extending the October stop at Bikini from two to five days. The departure date for this trip is defined by the need for spring tides to beach the LCU at Utirik. This condition exists from October 10 to October 16, so the LCU should be scheduled to depart from Kwajalein on October 8. The additional three days at Bikini extends the total mission time to 22 days. Our request for 16 days in late April or early May remains the same.

We are also requesting the following equipment additions to the R. V. Liktanur:

- (1) Replacement of the Johnson outboard motor on the Boston Whaler with two smaller engines, eg. 35-40 hp.
- (2) Addition of reliable cross-atoll (~30 mile) radio equipment to the LCU for communication between the ship and the small boat or distant shore parties. The present C. B. radios do not have adequate range.

Finally, I will presume that it is within the purview of the user's meeting to discuss crew coverage on the R. V. Liktanur. In light of the almost universal user satisfaction with the present crew, I believe it to be highly inefficient and counterproductive to rotate the crew per Global, Marine Department edict. We would strongly encourage and support any efforts among the users and PASO to convince Global Associates to recind this directive and retain the present crew whose competence is proven.

Again, our thanks to PASO, Ted Murawski, and the crew of the Liktanur where excellent support is "business as usual."

Sincerely yours,



N. A. Greenhouse
Project Director,
Marshall Islands
Radiological Safety Program

sls

cc: C. B. Meinhold
T. F. McCraw
R. Ray

5051894