

## BRIEFING OUTLINE

- BACKGROUND – NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC
- ISSUES
- CURRENT STATUS
- PROBLEM AREAS

US DOE ARCHIVES
RC 326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
Collection Des/Deal Files
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Folder Marshall Islands 1975-1977

**TEST ORGANIZATION—PACIFIC**

- **JOINT DOD—AEC**
- **FLAG OFFICER COMMANDER**
- **AEC SCIENTIST DEPUTY COMMANDER**

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195

## ISSUES

### POLITICAL

- PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO TEST
- PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO RETURN BIKINI AND ENEWETAK
- U.S. ACCUSED OF USING MARSHALLESE AS GUINEA PIGS

### HUMANITARIAN

- PEOPLE EVACUATED FROM HOME
- PEOPLE INJURED BY RADIATION FROM FALLOUT

### TECHNICAL

- CLEANUP OF RADIATION TO PRE-TEST CONDITIONS IMPOSSIBLE
- RESIDUAL WEAPONS RADIATION REQUIRE LIVING RESTRICTIONS

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196

## 1954 BRAVO EVENT

- WIND SHIFTED
- EMERGENCY EVACUATION
  - 64 RONGELAP ATOLL
  - 157 UTIRIK ATOLL
  - 18 AILINGANE ATOLL
  - 28 RONGERIK ATOLLS (AMERICAN)
- LONG-TERM RADIATION INJURY IN RONGELAP PEOPLE

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197

## REHABILITATION – BIKINI

- 1958 – LAST WEAPONS TESTS AT BIKINI – AEC-DOD
- 1966 – LETTER, SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO AEC REQUESTING SAFETY REVIEW
- 1967 – RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS – AEC
- 1968 – PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT
- 1969 – CLEANUP OPERATIONS – AEC-DOD
- 1970-1975 – AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION – DOI
- 1972-1974 – HOUSING CONSTRUCTION – DOI
- 1974-1975 – RETURN OF FIRST BIKINI FAMILIES – DOI
- 1975 – TRUST TERRITORY REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON RESTRICTIONS ON HOUSING AND CROPS – AEC/ERDA
- 1975-1976 – ERDA SURVEY, ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOUSING LOCATIONS
- 1977 – BIKINI ISLANDS POPULATION ABOUT 75

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198

## REHABILITATION – ENEWETAK

- 1972 – ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETURN BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS AND HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON
- 1972 – INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS ON RESPONSIBILITIES – DOD-DOI-AEC
- 1972-1973 – RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ENEWETAK ATOLL – AEC
- 1974 – EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS – AEC/ERDA
- 1975 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT – DOD
- 1977 – CLEANUP OPERATIONS BEGIN – DOD

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**CURRENT STATUS**

**BIKINI**

- RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OF ISLAND
- HOUSING RESTRICTED TO BIKINI, ENEU
- 12 CAPITAL SHIPS SUNK IN LAGOON
- 50 HOMES CONSTRUCTED
- SOME FAMILIES RETURNED

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200

**CURRENT PROBLEM AREAS**

● **BIKINI**

**LAWSUIT**

**NO IMPORTED FRESH FOOD**

**USE OF RESTRICTED LOCAL FOOD**

**ELEVATED BODY BURDENS – <sup>137</sup>Cs**

**POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF PEOPLE TO ENEU**

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201

## AERIAL RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY

- FASTER
- CHEAPER
- BETTER DEFINITION OF CONTAMINATED CONTOURS
- ISOTOPIC DEFINITION
- COMPLETE COVERAGE OF ISLANDS AND REEFS
- UNIFORM AUTOMATIC DATA HANDLING

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202

## PURPOSE

### 13 ATOLL SURVEY

1. THIS SURVEY IS AIMED AT THOSE ISLANDS AND ATOLLS IN THE MARSHALLS IMPACTED BY NUCLEAR TESTING AT THE PACIFIC PROVING GROUND.
2. FOR SOME ATOLLS THIS IS A SCREENING SURVEY TO DOCUMENT RADIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS WHERE LITTLE OR NO INFORMATION IS NOW AVAILABLE.
3. FOR OTHERS INCLUDING BIKINI ATOLL THE SURVEY WILL ADD TO THE DATA BANK WHERE THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS TO BRING THAT BANK UP TO PAR WITH ENEWETAK.
4. FOR BIKINI ATOLL THIS SURVEY WILL SATISFY ONE CONDITION FOR DROPPING THE LAWSUIT AGAINST DOI, DOD, ERDA, AND OTHERS BROUGHT BY THE BIKINI PEOPLE.

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203

## CURRENT PROBLEM AREAS

- **ENEWETAK**

- INTERFACE WITH EPA:**

- CLEANUP CRITERIA FOR PLUTONIUM SOIL  
DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED DEBRIS**

- INTERFACE WITH DNA:**

- PRIORITY OF CONTAMINATED SOIL REMOVAL  
CERTIFICATION OF CLEANUP  
RESPONSIBILITY AND FUNDING FOR RADIOLOGICAL SUPPORT**

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204

**STATUS**  
**13 ATOLL SURVEY**

- **DOI FUNDING DOD LOGISTIC SUPPORT**
- **ERDA-DOD-DOI PLANNING SURVEY**

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205

**CURRENT STATUS**

**ENEWETAK**

- **RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OF ISLANDS**
- **HOUSING RESTRICTED TO ENEWETAK, MEDREN, JAPTAN**
- **ONE ISLAND COMPLETELY DESTROYED**
- **RUNIT ISLAND HEAVY CONTAMINATED PU**

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266

### **INTERAGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **DOD – CLEANUP**
- **DOI – REHABILITATION**
- **DOE – RADIOLOGICAL ADVICE**  
**FOLLOWUP: ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**MEDICAL**

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207