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404408

TO: W. A. Curtis

FROM: J. P. Cooney & Jack Kelly

RE: GAMMA RAY ACTIVITY ON SHOT ISLANDS

DATE: 22 March 1950

The islands were surveyed with KR-6 monitoring instruments sensitive only to gamma. The permissible weekly dose at the present time in the laboratory at Los Alamos is 300 millirentgens (MR.) per week. With the present work week at Los Alamos of 5 1/2 hours, the maximum dose rate for continuous exposure is about 5.5 MR. per hour.

REPORT 3/17/50

The entire graded area within the 1,000 foot radius from zero was found to have an activity below 1MR. per hour for the most part.

No indication of the position of the old tower base could be detected with the instruments. The metal scrap mentioned in Sillman's report of 1 March 1950 has been removed to the lagoon side, well out of the working area.

The grading operations on this island have been completed.

REPORT 3/18/50

The grading operations on this island have been completed. There is no activity on this island greater than 1 MR. per hour.

REPORT 3/20/50

On this island the permanent camp for the Ammon area will be constructed. The activity on this island was found to be zero.

REPORT 3/20/50

The average activity on this island was 2 MR. per hour while some spots were found to be as high as 4 MR. per hour. There is no work planned for this island. Even so, the "richest" spots there have a tolerance time of 75 hours per week.

REPORT 3/22/50

The area between 100 foot radius and 2000 foot radius had a general activity of less than 1 MR. per hour except for a sector on the seaward side of the zero line in a northwesterly direction, where the activity was as high as 1.5 MR. per hour.

The activity at the edges of the tower and 5 MR. per hour with some of the footings as high as 10 MR. per hour. This activity corresponds to a minimum in the northwest direction, where the activity was as high as 1.5 MR. per hour.

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 1 LABEL RC/

By: Wm. W. Anderson 11/2/55
 (Signature of person making the change, and date)

Per: W. A. Curtis
 (Person authorizing change in classification) (Date)

CAUTION

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H. H. HOLMES & NARVER

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TO: W. A. Curtis

JOB:

FROM: J. P. Cooney & Jack Asby

RE: GAMMA RAY ACTIVITY ON SHOT ISLANDS

DATE: 22 March 1950

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RUNIT - (Cont'd)

The activity in a northeasterly direction, extending for about 100 feet from shore, is 2 MR. per hour.

It is directed that the rainwater's use be continued during the grading operations on this island.

LOCALITY

No measurable activity was found on this island.

NOTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As of this date, 3/22/50, all islands of Eriwetok atoll are declared free of radiation hazard, with the exception of the tower area on Runit. This area will be eliminated, as a radiation hazard, by the grading which should be completed within one month.

At present, film badges are being worn by all Holmes & Narver personnel on Eriwetok atoll and some Army personnel on Eriwetok Island, as well as the Navy personnel on Parry Island. A total of about 900 film badges are issued each month.

These film badges are designed to detect ionizing radiation, and from the above it is shown that no radiation hazard exists except on Eberiru and Runit. At present, the film badge industry is running at full peak in order to supply the demand for essential work. Probably between 30,000 and 50,000 additional badges will be required for future tests here. The production of this number of badges presents a serious problem of supply. It appears that we are not using good judgment in using so many film badges where no ionizing radiation hazard exists.

The processing of this large number of film badges ties up the entire film badge processing department at Los Alamos for several days each month.

Furthermore, the wearing of film badges presents an unfavorable psychological reaction in the workers, who assume a hazard must exist in the presence of these protective measures.

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FROM: J. P. Cooney &
Jack Aaby

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It is therefore recommended, subject to the approval of the Scientific Director of J.I.F.-3, that the wearing of film badges be discontinued immediately by all personnel except the workers on Runit, and that these be discontinued as soon as grading operations on this island are completed.

J. P. COONEY, M.D.
RAD-SAFETY OFFICER, JIF-3

JACK W. AEBY
RAD-SAFE OFFICER, BIKINETOX ATOLL

cc: Graves, Sci. Dir. JIF-3
R. E. Cole
CINCPAC
N-Division, Los Alamos
Military Application, AEC
Chief Naval Operations, Washington D.C. OP-36
Surgeon USARPAC
Commander, JIF-3

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