



United States Department of the Interior

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Hon. Harold Brown
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

JUN 15 1977

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased that a satisfactory solution has been reached for Department of Defense support for an Energy Research and Development Administration radiological survey of certain islands and atolls in the Northern Marshalls.

As reported in earlier correspondence, the entire Bikini Resettlement Project has been at a standstill since 1975 pending completion of such a survey of Bikini Atoll. Additionally, with the ending of the U.S. Trusteeship of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in sight, it was held imperative that before terminating the Trusteeship, a complete and comprehensive radiological survey should be conducted of all the Pacific islands which were subject to testing and close-in fallout to document the status today. Thus, in addition to covering Bikini Atoll, the survey will cover the other atolls in the Northern Marshalls (other than Enewetak Atoll which already has been done) which were subjected to nuclear weapons testing fallout. The delay in starting this important radiological survey resulted from the lack of funding on the part of various agencies concerned to cover the necessary logistic costs. DOD is the only agency with the capabilities of providing the required logistic support.

Through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics, it was determined that the total logistic costs of the survey would amount to \$2.6 million. Late in 1976, the Office of Management and Budget directed that the Department of the Interior, on behalf of the Executive Branch, should request the funds from the U.S. Congress to cover the cost of logistic support which would be provided by your Department.

The Department of the Interior included \$2.6 million in the FY 1977 supplemental appropriation, P.L. 95-26 approved May 4, 1977, to cover the Department of Defense cost for the necessary support for the survey that included a ship and helicopters for an aerial radiological survey and a fixed wing aircraft for specialized aerial photograph. The technical portion of the survey is to be conducted by ERDA.



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Box 13
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DOI and ERDA staff are ready to proceed with the detail planning and scheduling for the survey. Target date for beginning the survey has been set for early autumn and it is urgent that we be informed of the official point of contact within DOD which will be the responsible agent for providing the required logistic support. Interior has the required funds at hand.

We view the successful completion of the survey as having a high priority within the Department of the Interior and will appreciate your assistance and cooperation in expediting arrangements to carry it out.

Sincerely,

(BFA) James A. Joseph

JAMES A. JOSEPH
UNDER SECRETARY

cc: Mr. L. Joe Deal, ERDA

DOE ARCHIVES