

ENEWETAK - UDELAND FIELD TRIP REPORT

December 1974

	US·DOE ARCHIVES 326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
RG	
Collection	<i>L. Joe Deal</i>
Box	<i>5</i>
Folder	<i>FACT SHEET - BIKINI RESETTLEMENT</i>

ENEWETOK/UJELANG FIELD TRIP REPORT:

Based Schedule:

- December 4, depart Majuro, arrive Kwajalein
- December 5, depart Kwajalein, arrive Enewetok (morning)
- December 5, depart Enewetok, on Board MIECO Queen
- December 6, arrive Ujelang - at Ujelang
- December 7, at Ujelang - depart Ujelang
- December 8, arrive Enewetok
- December 9, at Enewetok
- December 10, at Enewetok (Japtan Island)
- December 11, at Enewetok
- December 12, depart Enewetok, arrive Kwajalein
- December 13, at Kwajalein
- December 14, depart Kwajalein

MAJOR POINTS:

1. The E.I.S., Case three with all radiological recommendations is generally accepted and the Engibi residents will relocate to other islands.
2. House sites by island and weto for all former Engibi residents were determined.
3. All transfers from Enewetok Island home sites to other islands as requested were recorded.
4. Enewetok and Medren Island will be the major residential island with community centers at each.
5. A realignment of the weto's on Medren Island was completed for inclusion in the final master plan.
6. A few permanent houses are requested for siting on Japtan Island with full knowledge that no community facilities will be constructed there.
7. The early return to Japtan was stated as including 50 persons plus the Distad's Rep's family. This will take place as soon as possible hopefully within the first quarter of 1975.

DOE ARCHIVES

The party disembark on the island and was greeted in the traditional manner including a review of the island's choral groups. All members of the field trip group introduced themselves and their functions. It was stressed at this point that Mr. Stewart from AEC was there to answer any questions concerning the radiological aspects of Enewetok Atoll. Later this day, a complete review of the recommended areas by use; (coconut planting; bird egg gathering) was given utilizing 8 1/2 x 11 prints of the slides originally presented during the September trip to Enewetok. The prints were passed around to all members of the community present and ultimately given the council for display in the village. No major questions concerning radiation were asked at his time.

Mr. Theodore R. Mitchell, then reviewed his Washington trip in depth with the following major points.

1. The legal return Enewetok Atoll to the people was imminent with the drafting and actual signature of the legal documents only remaining.

2. The return of Enewetok Atoll would be in three parts, (A) the transfer of title from D.O.D. to the Trust Territory; (B) transfer of title from Trust Territory to the people of Enewetok (C) grants by the Dri-Enewetok of use rights within the atoll to various agencies of the U.S. Government and the Trust Territory as required to facilitate the cleanup and rehabilitation and for any required long term usage. All parts would be done simultaneously.

3. Ujelang Island would not be decided to the Enewetok people at this time. The T.T.P.I. had recommended its transfer to the people in recognition of the damage done in Enewetok, but the Office of Territories, D.O.I. wished a release from liability in return which Mr. Mitchell opposed. A solution is to be completed following the actual initiation and funding of the rehabilitation program.

This prompted major discussion within the Enewetok people in that they wished to question ^{whether} ~~was raised~~ as a land rights determination would then be effected. It was explained and stressed that this was not a direct transfer and actual

DOE ARCHIVES

individual ownership of Ujelang, when transferred, would be an internal decision. The transfer would be from T.T.P.I. to the Enewetok community as a whole. A resolution by the council requesting D.O.I. to effect this transfer was passed and a copy is attached.

The question of repayment for individual land loss or the present in-ability to use a particular island or weto was raised and vigorously discussed. No firm answer was given or was possible. It was explained that this compensation, if any is dependent on the scope of the rehabilitation project and future radiological tests. Mr. Mitchell explained that this was his major reason for opposition of the signing of any release.

The Enewetok planning council then requested that we review the early return to Japtan, thus allowing them time to complete tabulation of the Engibi residents housing transfers. The preliminary operational plan for the early return was discussed and the facilities layout explained. It was stressed that the community could by agreement, be a maximum of 50 people plus the Distad Rep's family. A request was made that this number be increased to at least 60, but it was explained this was impossible due to T.T.P.I. logistics problems and D.N.A.'s requirements. It was further requested by the Dri-Enewetokese that when the T.T.P.I. initiates the early return program that the Enewetokese be used as the labor pool with the Trust Territory furnishing the required supervision, materials and equipment. I stated that the Trust Territory would be in agreement to this and that hopefully in 2 or 3 months the move would commence. I stressed that the return, by the necessity of the agreement between the T.T.P.I. and D.N.A., was not possible until transfer of the atoll was completed. It was explained that this relieved D.N.A. of responsibility and made the T.T.P.I. responsible, this being D.N.A.'s main concern. Mr. Mitchell voiced his opposition to this manner of operation for the record. DOE ARCHIVES

The possibility of limited employment by A.E.C. through the T.T.P.I. Agriculture Department for the proposed test planting program on Engibi was outlined. Further, the possibility of employment or the use of D.N.A.F.C. facilities

on Enewetok Island or employment directly by the T.T.P.I. was possible at this time. I also stated that purchase of a 65' Boat for use between Enewetok and Ujelang was underway and more information would be made available at the time of the early return. I stated that funding by the T.T.P.I. of the maintenance and operation of this boat was not available under the present budget and that this also would be discussed in more detail following procurement. The council then passed a resolution, copy attached, requesting the Distad to utilize Dre-Enewetok for the Japtan temporary return construction.

The remaining time at Ujelang was spent gathering the finalized home sites for all families. This included both the relocated Engibi residents and other families on Enewetok wishing to change sites due to the prior relocation. The preliminary population showed a community of 66 houses on Enewetok, 47 on Medren and 4 on Japtan. It was agreed that the community center would be located on Mwillimor on Enewetok Island and Lowit Weto on Medren Island. No permanent community facilities would be constructed on Japtan Island. Additionally, two rooms in addition to the original house model were agreed to for a single family, and the possibility of single additional rooms for 2 house model/family units eliminated. The planning council stated that no ill will within the community would be generated by the single large family receiving a substantially larger house.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Weto Allignment on the Island of Medren was changed drastically for reasons not fully explained. Certain wetos were grouped into a single weto due to common ownership and other changes made. It was partly explained that the actual order and position of the weto subdivisions were unknown at this time. This was accepted and house sites for all subdivisions will be shown as being in a single larger weto area with final siting reserved until the time of actual construction. Japtan Island was presented by the council as being a single ownership parcel with internal division by weto.

DOE ARCHIVES

The group departed Ujelang in the early evening of the second day for Enewetok Atoll arriving there the evening of the following day. It must be noted that some of the members of the Enewetok council and the Magistrate had originally requested to return to Majuro and this was arranged, but at departure this was changed and the only members of the community to return via the MIECO Queen were two families each with pregnant women who wished to travel to the Ebeye field hospital.

A secondary trip to Japtan Island was made upon the return to Enewetok Atoll to finalized the physical layout for the operational plan of the Japtan Early Return. All buildings and facilities were inspected and an on-site material survey done in view of the requirements of the temporary camp. Attached is a copy of the final operational plan for Japtan.

DOE ARCHIVES

Submitted By: 

Dennis P. McBreen
District Planner
Marshalls