

Don Ofler -

At our meeting about a month ago I thought we had agreement to get a factual letter from DOE to Interior -

DP's First cut attached, seemed far too positive on relocation and proposed several judgments. PE submitted a "counter draft" attached, mostly written by me. I tried to make it as positive as possible in view of the data as we understood it. Apparently DP thinks mine is far too negative.

I think the two of us should agree on some compromise if necessary and get something out.

Please review the attached letters and give me a call. I don't see any other solution.

Bob Till -

P.S. Apparently there is some new data re. the Enew inhabitants which shows the spread between overage and peak doses is higher than previously thought. Maybe the P.E. letter is too positive.

DRAFT

~~T McCrow~~
12/10/84

Till/211

Secretary of the Interior

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in response to your request that the Department of Energy (DOE) update its 1979 evaluation of conditions, if any, that should be imposed if the Bikini people are resettled on Eneu Island.

At the time of our 1979 evaluation, the United States Federal guidelines established for the individuals in the population receiving the highest dose was 500 mrem/yr for exposure of short duration. For exposures of population groups the guide was 170 mrem/yr. Recently, both the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) have issued recommendations that specify the use of a 100 mrem/yr whole body dose equivalent for the highest individual in any age group for chronic or long term exposure.* DOE is moving to implement requirements that are consistent with the NCRP recommendations.

The estimates for average dose for a population resettled on Eneu Island in 1985 are approximately 115 mrem/yr with imported food being the primary diet, and 260 mrem/yr without imported food. Previous measurements of Bikini Island residents indicated highest individual doses on the order of three to five times the average value. However, in this instance, it is likely that some individuals were consuming significant amounts of locally grown terrestrial foods.

*To help put these values in perspective, the NCRP lifetime risk estimate for cancer for a chronic exposure of 100 mrem/yr is 1 per 1,000 and the risk for a chronic exposure of 1,000 mrem/yr is 1 per 100.

It is unfortunately the case that doses on Eneu Island cannot be known with certainty until some months after the people return and will depend in large measure on the actual dietary habits of individuals.

Conditions that could be imposed to reduce exposures of Eneu Island residents are:

1. Eliminate use of terrestrial food grown on Eneu Island. This would reduce average exposures to a value of approximately 100 mrem/yr and would significantly reduce the spread between the average and maximum doses.
2. Residence on Bikini Island and consumption of terrestrial food grown on Bikini Island should be prohibited. If visits are extended and include consumption of local foods, the doses will rise rapidly and could exceed 1000 mrem/yr.
3. Consumption of coconut tree sap from trees on Eneu and Bikini Islands should be prohibited.

These actions ^{sh} would reduce the average dose for the population on Eneu Island to a level ~~of~~ ^{to the current standard of} approximately 100 mrem/yr. Only with effective implementation of the above restrictions can reasonable assurance be given that radiation exposures to Eneu Island residents will not significantly exceed the suggested guidelines. Even with implementation of these restrictions the maximum doses to individuals are expected to slightly exceed the 100 mrem/yr value.

We will be pleased to provide any additional information you may need.

DONALD PAUL HODEL