



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OCT 25 1990



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file
Enewetak
FY 91

Mr. J. H. Dryden
Director, Pacific Area Support Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 29939
Honolulu, HI 96820

Dear Mr Dryden:

Thank you for your letter of October 9, 1990 regarding the operation of the Enewetak Food and Agricultural Maintenance program. I appreciate knowing of the actions you have taken on the misappropriation of funds by a Marshallese employee.

As to the future operation of this program, the House Appropriations Subcommittee has recommended a FY 1991 appropriation of \$1.1 million for this program. In report language, the subcommittee stated:

The Committee expects the Enewetak Local Council, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy and its contractor to continue to work together to establish a plan and timetable for turning control of the program over to the local government at the earliest possible time. The Committee expects that the high level of cooperation and communication that have characterized this program in recent years will continue.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee recommended a FY 1991 appropriation of \$800,000 for the program. In its report, the Senate Subcommittee stated:

The Committee wishes to reiterate its expectation that cooperative efforts continue to transfer management of this program to the local government. The Committee requests that the Department of Energy, which operates the program, report by April 15, 1991, setting forth a plan for future monitoring of Federal activities on Enewetak.

Obviously, we will have to await resolution of the funding level by a House/Senate Conference Committee. Once the funding issue is resolved by Congress, I would recommend that a meeting be held in the Department of Energy's (PASO) Honolulu office at some mutually

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agreeable date to coordinate the development of plans to transfer the operation of this program to the local government at the earliest possible time. The participants should include representatives of the Department of Energy, its contractor, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Enewetak Local Government and OTIA. It is our intention the transfer of responsibility be coordinated and completed at some point during the current fiscal year. Funding for the program would be transferred to the Republic of the Marshall Islands under the terms of an OTIA Grant Agreement.

In the meantime, I suggest we continue operating the program under the terms of the existing DOI/DOE agreement under whatever level of funding is contained in the applicable Continuing Resolution.

Sincerely,



Stella Guerra
Assistant Secretary
Territorial and International Affairs

cc: Mr. Harry Brown ✓