



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

659
TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

JUL 2 - 1990

Enewetak field

Mr. Harry Brown
Deputy Program Manager
Office of Emergency Response
and Program Analysis
Nevada Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. J.H. Dryden, Director of the Pacific Area Support Office, outlining plans for phasing out the operations of the field station at Enewetak, which has been funded on an interagency agreement between DOI and DOE.

As you know, we had hoped that Congress would permit us to transfer responsibility for this program to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). As usual, the Administration did not seek funding for the program in the FY 1991 budget request.

We are advised that the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives will recommend continuation of the program. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee staff seems to indicate that some form of compromise will be made, which will provide for a gradual phase down of the program over three years. We were also asked to provide cost estimates for applying potassium treatments to the northern islands.

My staff is of the opinion that Congress will provide some amount of funding to continue the program. What is not clear is the amount of funding or the conditions under which the program will be continued. Specifically, whether the Congress will require the program to continue to be operated by DOI/DOE under the present interagency arrangement or will permit us to transfer program operation responsibility to RMI.

Given the late schedule of congressional approval process on the FY 1991 budget, it may be several weeks before we have final decisions. Therefore, we must also be prepared to continue present operations if, that in fact, is the final determination by Congress. Obviously, this handicaps Mr. Dryden's planning ability, but I am unable to make any final decisions until I know what final action Congress will take on the project.

*Harry Brown's Files, NV
Enewetak*

Mr. Harry Brown

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I have instructed Larry Morgan of my staff to keep you and Mr. Dryden fully briefed on what we hear on this issue over the next several weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Stella Guerra', written in black ink.

Stella Guerra
Assistant Secretary
Territorial and International Affairs

cc: Mr. J.H. Dryden