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Resettlement

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Folder Fact Sheet - Bikini Resettlement

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FACT SHEET - BIKINI RESETTLEMENT

1968 Ad Hoc Committee report. (TAB 1)

1. The exposures to radiation that would result from the repatriation of the Bikini people do not offer a significant threat to their health and safety.
2. Such exposure may and should be further reduced by the following simple measures:
  - a. Restrict rehabilitation for the present to the islands of the Bikini-Eneu complex. (Appendix IV)
  - b. Establish the first village and immediate food crops on Eneu. No radiological precautions will be needed on Eneu because of its very low contamination level. (Appendix V)
  - c. Any village construction on Bikini Island should involve the covering of the site with coral rock as is the local custom.
  - d. Radioactive scrap metal should be removed from the islands adjacent to former shot sites.
  - e. The population of land crabs should be sharply reduced because of their high content of strontium 90.
  - f. If pandanus trees which produce edible fruit are planted on Bikini Island, two inches of topsoil should be removed from the planting sites. The area of removal from each site should be equal to the area covered by the crown of mature trees.
3. Determinations should be made of body burdens of cesium 137 and strontium 90 at the end of the first year of residence on the Atoll and as appropriate thereafter. Baseline surveys prior to relocation would be desirable. Resurveys of environmental radiation levels on the Bikini Atoll and estimates of radionuclides in food should be made periodically. These surveys will provide a continual check of the radiation status of the people and environment and will help form a basis for decision as to the time of rehabilitation of islands outside of the Bikini-Eneu complex.

4. Special efforts should be made to ensure a balanced and adequately nutritious diet. For example, a dietary supplement of powdered milk would materially reduce strontium 90 uptake by relieving the calcium deficiency usually associated with their diet.

1970 M. Biles trip report on meeting with Trust Territory Administration. (TAB 2)

1. Informed Trust Territory about need for additional surveys - real concern was about plutonium in soil.
2. Trust Territory officials decided to delay resettlement until 1973 when people would be self supporting.
3. Trust Territory agrees to Bikinians wishes that all houses and community buildings be constructed on Bikini Island rather than Eneu. Trust Territory officials assured that no houses would be constructed on the interior of Bikini Island.
4. House construction to include use of clean coral aggregate and other measures to reduce radiation doses.
5. Trust Territory staff reports Bikinians interpreted the decision to allow resettlement as indication of complete freedom from radioactivity. Expected questions concerning resurveys and measures to reduce radiation exposure.
6. Noted that adherence to recommendations for exposure reduction depends on being consistent with Bikinians social requirements.

1974 November 8, Office of Trust Territory advised not to construct additional homes on Bikini without further radiological advice. (TAB 3)

1975 January, Bikini Master Plan meeting. (TAB 4)

1. Bikini Master Plan described.
2. People unhappy with houses that Trust Territory has constructed on Bikini Island.

3. Phase II housing in interior of Bikini Island described need for additional radiological surveys showed.

1975 June, limited radiological survey undertaken after DOD refusal to supply logistics except on reimbursible basis. (TAB 5)

1975 August, Report on Survey. (TAB 6)

1. Confirm that radioactivity in interior of island too high for siting of future houses.
2. Recommended further construction be on Eneu and that certain foods on Bikini should not be used for the time being.
3. Discussions with DOI and Trust Territory representatives about need for consultation with Bikini people to explain results of survey since first group of people to return at early date.

1975 August 22, meeting with DOI. (TAB 7)

1. Origin of meeting uncertain - invitation received from DNA. Meeting hosted by DOI Director - Trust Territory.
2. DOD worried about leak of results of meeting on survey to press resulting in unfavorable publicity which might embarrass the Secretary of Defense during visit to Japan. Favored a press release on results of meeting.
3. DOI expressed opinion that people would not return if further constraints precluded houses on Bikini Island.
4. DOI was advised that there is no basis for delay of Bikini resettlement if recommendations for radiation exposure reduction are instigated.
5. DOI does not desire to get into finger-pointing exercise, but recognizes that the restrictions for dose reduction to keep within standards may not be acceptable to Bikinians.

6. DOI was to draft press release.
7. Final release included decision by DOI to delay resettlement of Bikini for 6 months pending further information on internal radiation dose.

DOE ARCHIVES