

Boss

400329

November 16, 1955

Dr. Charles L. Dunham, Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine  
United States Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Dunham:

As requested by Dr. Boss in our telephone conversation of November 2, we are forwarding to you for your immediate use copies of the radiation readings as compiled at Rongelap Atoll on November 7, 1955.

Our field party returned home Saturday evening November 12. They accomplished all the various phases of their mission, and all commented on the wonderful support received from the Resident Engineer and his staff, Holmes and Narver, and the Task Group support facilities at Eniwetok and Kwajalein.

We very much appreciate the part of the Division of Biology and Medicine in organizing these support facilities for us.

We are all busy with analyses for the summary report of the 1,486 samples of soil, plants and animals collected by our staff during October and November. We are still hoping to have the report in your hands by December 15.

Sincerely yours,

Lauren R. Donaldson  
Director

LRD:mc  
Encl.  
cc: Dr. W. R. Boss  
Mr. Kenneth Englund

File folder = nmB2

5002643

FLY LOG

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
APPLIED FISHERIES LABORATORY  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Locality ELMER- RONGELAP I. - LABAREDJ I. Date Nov. 7, 1955

Personnel Bonham Lowman Weather \_\_\_\_\_

Held Seymour Water conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Radiation level(s) See below: all readings with Beckman MX5 in m. reps. per hr.:  
bg. ~ .03 - .04 serial No. 65005

Operations: Processed samples: HOW Fish 11-2-55  
Bonham and Lowman at Elmer

0830 Held and Seymour with Duggar and Spavin left Elmer in L-20 for Fred;  
0915 Took off in PBM (612) from Fred for Rongelap with Lt. Mallinger  
as pilot. Flying time to Rongelap 2 hours 7 mins; winds at 33 knots from  
ENE most of way; landed off Rongelap Island, put ashore in life raft; ashore  
at 12:05; surveyed with Beckman MX5, (1) the village area; (2) the path  
to a distance of 800 yards south of village, (3) path leading from lagoon  
to ocean side of Island. Returned to PBM ~ 1400; took off for Labaredj;  
ashore Labaredj (life raft) at 1445. Surveyed (1) landing area, (2) beach  
to mid island on lagoon side, (3) then cross Island to ocean side, (4)  
northern most tip of Island, (5) coconut grove near north end, (6) Rhinehart  
"hole" in this grove, (7) the area where AFL monitored 2 weeks ago, (8) and  
finally the yellow stake on Island, unnamed, just south of Labaredj.  
Returned to PBM ~ 1600. Landed at Fred at 1810. L-20 met plane and  
landed us at Elmer at 1820.

Meter readings follow

3 ft. above ground 1" above ground  
closed open closed open

AREA

AREA	3 ft. above ground closed	3 ft. above ground open	1" above ground closed	1" above ground open
<u>RONGELAP ISLAND landing in front of village</u>				
<u>intertidal area</u>	<u>.04</u>	<u>.04</u>	<u>.04</u>	<u>.04</u>
<u>" " landing in front of village</u>				
<u>above high tide line</u>	<u>.06</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.08</u>	<u>.13</u>
<u>" " 60 paces from lagoon to cistern</u>	<u>.08</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>.08</u>	<u>0.4</u>
<u>" " school house - hospital area</u>	<u>.07</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>.10</u>	<u>.25</u>
<u>" " " " papaya cluster (soil</u>				
<u>sample A11 &amp; 12)</u>	<u>.09</u>	<u>0.5</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>1.2</u>
<u>" 5002644 well behind schoolhouse,</u>				
<u>grassy area (soil sample A9 &amp; 10)</u>	<u>.14</u>	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.10</u>	<u>0.6</u>

cont. following page

Locality \_\_\_\_\_ Date Nov. 7 con't (Mon.)

Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Weather \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Water conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Radiation level(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Operations: Rongelap Island Survey Meter Readings continued

AREA		3' above ground		1" above ground	
		closed	open	closed	open
Heading south	Village center - concrete				
along path	" "concrete posts grass		.07	0.3	
			gravel .07	0.15	0.09
near lagoon	" + 100 paces grass			0.15	0.9
side of	" " gravel	.11	0.6	0.10	0.4
island	+ 75 " "				
General	at church grass	.06	.25	.06	0.35
	" " " gravel			.07	0.4
direction	+ 70 paces, inside hut	0.4	3.0		
N - S	" " " "				
	" " pandanus mat			1.0	7.0
	" " inside hut roof			0.5	4.0
	" " outside of hut roof			1.2	8.0
	+ 200 " pandanus grove	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.0
	+ 350 " mostly grass	0.4	3.0	0.6	5.0
Path from	50 paces from junction with N-S path - well - grass	0.09	0.4	0.06	0.3
	+ 100 paces, open grass	0.3	2.0	0.5	3.5
ocean side	+ 100 " <u>Sida</u> bushes	0.3	3.0	0.9	5.0
	+ 110 " open grass	0.4	3.0	1.2	7.0
starting	+ 100 " grass and sand under coconut	0.4	3.0	0.7	6.0
lagoon	+ 100 " under <u>Guettarda</u> , dead leaves	0.15	1.5	0.4	1.0
side					
General	+ 55 " ocean side - above high tide line - leaves sand	0.12	1.0	0.3	3.0
	direction				
E - W	ocean side - intertidal area sand and beach pavement	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03

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 APPLIED FISHERIES LABORATORY  
 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

DAILY LOG

Locality..... Date Nov. 7 Con't. (Mon.)  
 Personnel..... Weather.....  
 .. Water conditions.....  
 ..

Radiation level(s).....

Operations: Rongelap Island Survey Meter Readings continued

AREA	3' above ground		1" above ground	
	Closed	open	closed	open
school house, inside	0.09	0.7	0.05✓	0.4✓
school house table			0.2	1.2
hospital, inside	0.11	0.9	0.12	0.9
hospital mattress			0.06	0.5

✓ values rechecked because they were less at 1" than at 3'

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 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

FIELD LOG

Locality \_\_\_\_\_ Date Nov. 7, 1955 (Mon.) Con't.  
 Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Weather \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Water conditions \_\_\_\_\_

LABAREDJ SURVEY METER READINGS

Radiation level(s)	3 ft. above ground	1" above ground		
Operations:	Closed	open	closed	open
AREA				
boat landing, south end, intertidal sand	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.10
" " " " above high tide, pavement	0.7	5.0	1.3	8.0
100 paces N of boat landing, lagoon side dead leaves			4.0	off scale
" " " " " lagoon side gravel	1.1	8.0	3.0	15.0
+ 175 paces " " gravel	0.6	4.0	1.4	7.0
100m lagoon hi tide line, 40 paces East, under pandanus trees	2.5	16.0	5.0	off scale
plus 35 paces E, gravel open area	0.9	6.0	3.0	17.0
" 45 " " under <u>Messerschmidia</u>	1.0	5.0	1.5	11.0
" 50 " " open sand	0.9	8.0	3.0	off scale
" 50 " " high tide line, ocean side sand & gravel	0.6	3.0	0.8	4.0
" 40 " " intertidal ocean side sand	0.09	0.4	0.14	0.6
" 10 " " " " " beach pavement	0.03	0.07	0.04	0.15
thern tip of Island - intertidal area	0.05	0.15	0.07	0.4
" " " above high tide	0.6	4.0	0.8	6.0
conut grove near N end under coconut tree dead fronds	1.0	5.0	0.8	4.0
" " " " " " " beneath "			2.0	11.0
" " " " among arrowroot plants	1.1	8.0	3.0	12.0
" " " " bottom of Rhinehart "hole" about 12"			0.5	3.5

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APPLIED FISHERIES LABORATORY

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

DAILY LOG

Locality \_\_\_\_\_ Date Nov. 7, 1955 (Mon.) Con't

Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Weather \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Water conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Radiation level(s) LABAREDJ SURVEY METER READINGS

Operations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ AREA \_\_\_\_\_ 3 ft. above ground 1" above ground  
 \_\_\_\_\_ closed open closed open

SW part of Island, under tree, dead leaves, at  
 site of soil sample A 7 & 8                      0.9              6.0              1.5              12.0

SW part of Island 10 paces west, open, site  
 of soil sample A 5 & 6                      0.8              6.0              3.5              18.4

Unnamed island just south of Labaredj (100 yds)  
 at yellow stake, open beach, above high  
 tideline, sand & gravel                      0.9              6.0              1.1              6.0

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Locality \_\_\_\_\_ Date Nov. 7, 1955 (Mon.) Con't.  
Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Weather \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Water conditions \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Radiation level(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Operations:

The average survey meter reading values are summarized below but these values have several limitations and the results should be interpreted in the light of these limitations. Just exactly what the average value means is open to question. The principal limitation is the variability of readings in one small area. The variability is due to the ground cover being surveyed, i.e., grass, sand, gravel, dead leaves, under trees, open, etc. The meters were provided by Rad-Safe and were calibrated and checked before and after use. This error was determined to be less than 10%.

Average Values of Survey Meter Readings in Milli REP'S per Hour  
at Rongelap, Labaredj and Kabelle Islands on October 21 and November 7, 1955

Area	Height		n	Rongelap	n	Labaredj	n	Kabelle
beach	3 feet	closed	2	0.04	4	0.05		
		open	2	0.04	4	0.17		
	1 inch	closed	2	0.04	4	0.08	1	0.1
		open	2	0.04	4	0.31	1	0.4
island proper above high tide line	3 feet	closed	21	0.2	14	1.0		
		open	21	1.3	14	6.4		
	1 inch	closed	30	0.4	21	2.1	11	2.5
		open	30	2.1	21	12.	11	9.3