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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DISPATCHED
OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER
1717 H Street
Date 7/22 Time 5:00 p.

APR 22 1960

9-10978 MKAT EPG

Dear Mr. Gates:

In Acting Chairman Fleberg's August 29, 1959 letter to Secretary McElroy and in your October 29, 1959 letter to me the AEC and DoD established agreement that the Eniwetok Proving Ground (EPG) activity could be reduced in scope to a 12-month readiness status. That, of course, has since been accomplished.

Because the likelihood of resuming surface nuclear testing at EPG in the future is so small, Chief, DASA, Commander, JTF-7, and the Director of Military Application, AEC, last month appointed a Joint Study Group to reappraise requirements for EPG, and readiness status and functions of JTF-7. The report of that Joint Study Group, short title PEPG, prepared on March 31, 1960, concluded, in part, that the EPG should be placed in a caretaker status. I concur in that conclusion and would like to implement it as soon as practicable in order to further reduce AEC costs at EPG.

In the coming months we may find that the AEC programmatic need for the EPG will disappear completely. If the Department of Defense has requirements for retaining Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls, it would be economically advantageous to arrange a non-reimbursable interdepartmental transfer of the plant facilities and the equipment out there before the AEC puts the Proving Ground in caretaker status. Otherwise, when the equipment and supplies now stored at EPG are declared excess, probably several million dollars worth will be disposed of -- equipment which might handily fulfill possible DoD requirements in the EPG.

Therefore, I would appreciate knowing by May 15 of your interest in acquiring the EPG for possible DoD use. Additionally if the DoD has no requirement for the EPG, your concurrence is requested in removing a specified degree of readiness for test resumption there,

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AUTHORITY: DOE/SA-20
BY R.S. DEWEY, DATE:
6/10/94

2084

MILITARY RESEARCH & APPL. 7 EPG

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CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF 1/31/77
BY [illegible] DATE 1/31/77

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so that the Commission can begin immediately to dispose of the equipment now stored in EPG and place the plant facilities in caretaker status until complete withdrawal is indicated.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) John A. McCone

Chairman

Honorable Thomas S. Gates
Secretary of Defense

SO&CC: Addressee
CC: Gen. Mgr.
2CC: Chairman
CC: Budget
CC: C&S
CC: General Counsel
CC: Finance
CC: Test Reader
CC: Reader
CC: DMA Files
CC: Locator
CC: Test Pending

APR 2 5 1960

DISPATCHED
OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER
1717 H Street
Date 4/22 Time 5:00p

Mr. Keto
Col. Hood
Budget

2085

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OFFICE ▶	Test	MA:Starbird	C&S	OGC	Finance	GM
SURNAME ▶	SWJosephson/ejc			Guilian 4/14/60 Ferguson		
DATE ▶	4/14/60	4/ /60	4/15/60	4/15/60	4/ /60	4/20/60

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