

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

Upton, New York 11973

Medical Department

(516) 345- 3577

July 7, 1978

Dr. Walter Weyzen
Manager, Human Effects Studies
DBER
DOE
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Walter:

At the time of the recent Congressional hearings on Bikini, several people from Bikini who were attending the hearings in Washington visited BNL June 21-22. (Mr. Oscar DeBum, District Administrator, Marshalls, and Ataji Balos, Marshallese Congressman, also visited.) Two of the Bikini people, Mr. _____, who had been living on Bikini as Health Aide, and a Mr. _____ who had been living on Majuro, had whole body gamma spectrographic analyses for Cs-137 and K-40 done by Dr. Cohn's group at BNL and at NYU by Dr. Cohen. The latter also did an analysis for Am-241 in his special counter. Copies of these reports with comparison with Mr. Miltenberger's counts at Bikini in the latter part of April are enclosed.

You will note that there is a discrepancy between the BNL and NYU Cs-137 counts (which are in close agreement) on the one hand, and those of Miltenberger at Bikini in April. The estimated body burdens of Cs-137 (μCi) were 1.62 at BNL, 1.72 at NYU and 3.3 at Bikini. Mr. Miltenberger offers the following explanation of this discrepancy. At the time of the finding of elevated counts at Bikini, the people were advised to refrain from eating home-grown products including coconuts. He believes Mr. _____ may have complied. If so, he claims a subtraction for loss due to biological turnover would put his counts only 10-15% above those reported above (a reasonable difference). The agreement between the K-40 counts would tend to support this explanation. In any event, this is only one case.

The finding of no detectable Am-241 (200 μCi lower limit of detection) in the skull of Mr. _____ and no x-ray peak for Pu-239 is encouraging. It will be interesting to see the results of radiochemical urine analyses on the people living at Bikini now in progress and to be reported soon by Dr. Naidu.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

Robert A. Conard, M.D.

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cy Paul. DeBum

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W. Weyzen
Jay

Cc:

Mr. J. Deal
Des. Bond
Cronkite
Cohen
Eisenbud
Cohn
Naidu
N.A.Greenhouse, Jr.
R.P.Miltenberger

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WHOLE BODY COUNTS ON MARSHALLESE SUBJECTS ON JUNE 21, 1978

	<u>Total</u>	^{137}Cs <u>μCi</u>	<u>K</u> <u>(g)</u>
	10.5×10^6	1.62^*	$101^{**} (?)$
	375,589	0.0117	159.6
	339,792	0.0040	138.2
	667,179	0.0250	133.2
Average US Males	330,000	$0.0025 \pm .006$	-

* Corrected for biol. loss (18 days from Bikini), if Biol. $t-1/2 = 100$ d
 $\therefore = 1.82 \mu\text{Ci}$ on 6/21/78

		<u>K</u> <u>(g)</u>
2.2 μCi	1977 - Cohn	148.6
3.3 μCi	1978 - Miltenberger	136.5

** based on a 1 min count & poor counting statistics

Norman Cohn - 1.72 μCi for J.C. on June 22.

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