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Director  
Defense Nuclear Agency  
ATTN: PORP  
Washington, D. C. 20305

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Dear Sir:

As agreed during a telephone conversation this morning with Cdr. Paine, I have described below the five (5) major ERDA programs in the Marshall Islands. These, of course, are in addition to the reimbursable support which we provide to DNA at both Johnston and Enewetak.

It is noteworthy that all of these programs derive directly from joint AEC/DOD activities during the era of atmospheric testing. We consider them all to have high national importance. In addition, all of them are, in varying degrees, dependent upon MAC Airlift Support - with those at Enewetak being exclusively so dependent.

The Brookhaven Medical Program: In 1954 the population of two Marshall Islands Atolls were accidentally exposed to relatively high levels of radiation as a result of a thermonuclear test - BRAVO - at Bikini Atoll. These populations have been kept under medical surveillance since 1954, and the Nevada Office, Acting through PASO has provided all of the support for that program. ERDA personnel visit the atolls with the Brookhaven doctors, provide transportation for the doctors and their patients, and look after a number of other humanitarian needs in the process. We expect this program to continue for many years.

Cleanup of the Test Atolls: By Interagency Agreement, ERDA is responsible for providing radiological advice, support and assistance to the Department of Defense for cleanup of the test atolls and to the Department of the Interior for rehabilitation and resettlement. Pursuant

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*James W. ...*

to this activity, ERDA sponsors and PASO supports, a number of research activities, e. g., the ERDA experimental farm at Engebi (Enewetak Atoll).

The Mid-Pacific Marine Laboratory: For 22 years the United States has maintained at Enewetak a field laboratory station which was established as a part of the atmospheric test program. This laboratory, concerned initially with what we would describe today as environmental impact, has become a center of unique understanding of radiological pollution in a tropical marine environment. For an expenditure over the 22 years of about \$1 million, it has supported almost 1000 investigators in field research efforts. Nevada provides administrative and logistic support to the Mid-Pacific Marine Laboratory and is active in its program direction.

Environmental Surveillance of the Marshall Islands: Many atolls and many tens of islands in the Marshalls were affected by fallout from atmospheric tests between 1946 and 1958. Nevada has been charged with responsibility for long-term monitoring of the presence, transfer, removal uptake and decay of the fallout residue, for assessing the significance to man of the radiation in his environment and for providing advice and assistance to Trust Territory authorities. We expect this responsibility to continue for many years.

Operation of the Marshall Islands Research Vessel: Nevada acquired, about two years ago, a ship which has been used very successfully to support a variety of research programs in the Marshalls. This research vessel, under operational control of PASO, has provided each year more than 1600 scientific man days on station in the Marshalls. It is based at Kwajalein and operated for ERDA by the Army's KMR contractor.

Sincerely,

Roger Ray, Assistant Manager  
for Environment & Safety

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