

Such situation-specific judgment might be considered in any case where the OPLAN conditions are inadequate to fully represent the situation, or where it is unclear how the conditions are to be applied.

3. Enjebi Experimental Farm

During the course of several meetings the group has had the opportunity to refer to data that might be obtained from the farm on Enjebi. During its visit to the atoll in August the group briefly visited the farm. The group has the impression that the farm has considerable potential for providing information on the relationships between radionuclides in soil and edible crops. Such information is of paramount importance in making informed recommendations about the future use of the northern islands of Enewetak Atoll.

Based on our limited information concerning the farm and on our visit to it, we are particularly concerned that the farm will not be able to provide in a timely manner the information needed. The three areas of greatest concern to the committee are:

1. The adequacy of present plantings both as to number of species and number of plants of a given species?
2. The adequacy of current and projected maintenance procedures for the farm.
3. The extent to which the farm's operation is adequately integrated into an overall plan for making radiological hazard assessments for Enewetak Atoll including the ultimate decision about rehabilitation of the northern islands.

The group strongly recommends that the role of the farm as a part of an overall integrated plan for making radiological assessments be carefully evaluated. If the farm has a key role, it should be clearly defined and adequately supported to carry out its mission.

4. Plowing Experiment

A review of preliminary data from the plowing experiment suggests that plowing decreased the potential for resuspension of plutonium since the plutonium in the surface soils appeared to be nearly uniformly mixed with all of the plowed soil. Thus, plowing probably would reduce the amount of plutonium that could be inhaled. However, while plowing might reduce the health risk

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from inhaled plutonium, the possibility remains that plowing could increase the availability of ^{90}Sr and ^{137}Cs to plant roots. The Advisory Group will wait until comparative data are available on the levels of ^{90}Sr and ^{137}Cs in plowed and unplowed soil before commenting further on plowing. Dose assessments for the two conditions would be especially useful if ^{90}Sr and ^{137}Cs , as well as the transuranics, were considered.

Sincerely yours,

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