

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AUG 9 1957

410267

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. W. F. Libby

SUBJECT: Radiation Levels on Rongelap Island

In our Staff Paper AEC 125/30, dated February 6, 1957, concerning the return of the Rongelapese to their home island, we predicted ".....It is difficult to extrapolate precisely far into the future, but the data suggest that the gamma doses on Rongelap Island would not greatly exceed (if at all) 0.5 roentgens for the first year of reoccupancy, with lesser doses in subsequent years.."

On June 25, 1957, just prior to the actual return of the Rongelapese, a radiological survey was made of the gamma levels on Rongelap Island. These data were attached in the form of a memorandum with accompanying maps from Mr. Ernest Wynkoop to Dr. Gordon M. Dunning. You will note that the average gamma dose rate on the Island on June 25, 1957, was about 0.03 milliroentgens per hour (0.26 roentgens per year).

Since you have exhibited a manifest interest in this matter, the enclosed are forwarded for your information.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

*K. E. Fields*  
General Manager

Enclosures: (7)

Memo to GMDunning from EWynkoop,  
dtd 6/27/57, subj: Gamma Radio-  
logical Survey of Rongelap and  
Aneastok Islands  
Maps (6) *In map, etc.*

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STATUS VERIFIED UNCL  
BY Jose Diaz DATE 8/26/80

c o p y

Gordon Dunning, AEC, DBM, Washington 25, D. C.

JUN 27 1957

Ernest Wynkoop, Chief, Eniwetok Branch, Test Div., EPG

GAMMA RADIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF RONGELAP AND ANEAETOK ISLANDS

SYMBOL: ETE:EW:11-2255

A radiological survey team consisting of Henry P. Schlacks, AEC, Radiological Safety Assistant, Stan Curry, H and N Radiological Safety Officer, and two H and N monitors, surveys Rongelap Island and Aneaetok Island on June 25, 1957. The survey team was flown to Rongelap Atoll by a Navy UF-1.

All readings were made with MX-5s at a height of three feet above the ground. The survey team did not have time to completely survey the dense jungle areas of the island. All living areas, main roads, and the fringe of the jungle were covered.

Rongelap island had a high reading of .13 mr/hr, an average of .03 mr/hr, and a low of .01 mr/hr.

Aneaetok island had a high reading of .2 mr/hr, an average of .05 mr/hr, and a low of .01 mr/hr.

On sheets numbered J/S-47-002-C4 and J/S-47-002-C6, the caption, dirt road not surveyed, refers to an engineering survey.

EW:fvm

Enclosures:

1. J/S-47-002-C1 (trip)
2. J/S-47-002-C2 (trip)
3. J/S-47-002-C3 (trip)
4. J/S-47-002-C4 (trip)
5. J/S-47-002-C5 (trip)
6. J/S-47-002-C6 (trip)

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