

C. L. Dunham, M. D., Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine

July 29, 1957

Gordon M. Dunning, Health Physicist  
Division of Biology and Medicine

GAMMA RESURVEY OF RONGELAP ISLAND

I thought you would be interested in the resurvey made of Rongelap Island at our request prior to the return of the Rongelapese. The attached memorandum and maps summarize these data. You will note the average gamma dose rate was about .03 mr/hr (0.26 r per year) at the time of the measurement on June 25, 1957. This substantiates our prediction made to the Commission last winter that "It is difficult to extrapolate precisely far into the future, but the data suggests that the gamma doses on Rongelap Island ~~do~~ not greatly exceed (if at all) 500 roentgens for the first year of reoccupancy

Enclosures: (-

- 1. Memo to Gordon M. Dunning fr Ernest Wynkoop  
dtd 6/27 57 subj: Gamma Radiological Survey of  
Rongelap and Aneketok Islands
- 2. 5 Maps

cc: Dr. West

*NMB 4*

UNCLASSIFIED

OFFICE ▶	<i>Gordon M. Dunning</i>		
SURNAME ▶	<i>Dunning</i>		
DATE ▶	<i>7/29/57</i>		

K. E. Fields, General Manager

August 5, 1957

C. L. Dunham, M. D., Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine

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 0.02 milliroentgens per hour (0.26 roentgens per year).

You may wish to transmit this information to Dr. Libby, since he has manifested keen interest in these matters.

Enclosures (7)

1. Memo to Gordon M. Dunning, DBM fr Ernest Wynkoop, Chf. Eniwetok Br., Test Div., EPG, dtd 6/27/57  
sub: Gamma Radiological Survey of Rongelap and Aneaketok Islands
- 2 thru 7 Maps

*ASATS 4*

OFFICE ▶	
SURNAME ▶	<i>G. M. Dunning</i>
DATE ▶	<i>8, 5, 57</i>

Form AEC-318 (Rev. 4-54)

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