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Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

AUG 2 4 1998

Senator Ismael John
Enewetak/Ujelang Atoll Local Government Council
Box 1199
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Senator John:

Thank you for your letter of July 29, 1998, regarding my office's decision to transfer the Department of Energy's (DOE) whole body counting and urine bioassay programs from Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL).

Consolidation of this work at LLNL enables my office to purchase comparable quality service at lower cost. The resulting cost savings increase program options and flexibility. It also permits DOE to address the needs of resettling communities in a more effective and cost efficient manner.

As the next step, we would like to have a meeting to discuss future Enewetak needs, particularly the next resettlement phase at Engebi Island and our whole body counting and urine bioassay work at Enewetak Island. In the minutes from our July 1998 annual meeting, September 17, 1998, was suggested for such a meeting. If this date is convenient for you, I will ask my staff to work with the Council to begin planning for it.

DOE remains committed to providing a strong and supportive Marshall Islands program. I look forward to hearing from you and working together to address these important issues.

Sincerely,

for Paul J. Seligman, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Health Studies

cc: The Honorable Joan Plaisted,
U.S. Ambassador
The Honorable Phillip Muller,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RMI
The Honorable Banny de Brum,
Ambassador of RMI
Emil Skowden, DOS
Alan Stayman, DOI

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