



Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

July 16, 1999

His Excellency Banny de Brum
Ambassador of the Republic of
the Marshall Islands
Embassy of the Republic of
the Marshall Islands
2433 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador de Brum:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 1999, concerning the medical care and environmental monitoring programs in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) administered by my office and your views on the value of annual RMI-Department of Energy (DOE) meetings.

I regret not being available on June 21-22, 1999, for an annual meeting, as you proposed by your letter of May 17, 1999. However, we share your views on the value of such meetings, and to this end, I would like to propose October 18-19, 1999, in Honolulu, Hawaii, for our next meeting. In the interim, I propose that we work together to develop an appropriate agenda for that meeting. For example, with respect to the subject of radiation standards cited in your June 17, 1999, letter, we would be pleased to discuss, as part of the agenda, the continued sharing of DOE's environmental monitoring data, which the RMI Government and local communities may use to make determinations regarding radiation cleanup standards, resettlement of Marshallese on home islands, and appropriate worker safety standards.

With regard to the structure of our annual meeting, we continue to seek to enhance the effectiveness of such meetings by transitioning from general plenary sessions to smaller, focused working-level meetings, both with the RMI Government and the four atoll local governments (Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utirik). We believe that such a format, which we utilized successfully last November at our meetings in Honolulu, presents the most favorable opportunity for constructive, indepth dialogue on issues of concern, and the development of work plans to achieve mutually-agreed goals.



Please advise us at your earliest convenience whether October 18-19, 1999, are acceptable dates for our annual meeting. In addition, as always, my staff and I would be pleased to meet with the RMI and/or local atoll government representatives when they visit Washington. D.C.

Sincerely,



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

cc: The Honorable Phillip Muller,
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Bill Richardson, DOE/S-1
Kurt Campbell, DOD
Stanley Roth, DOS
Ferdinand Aranza, DOI
The Honorable Don Young,
House Resources Committee
The Honorable George Miller,
House Resources Committee
The Honorable Eni Faleomavaega,
House Resources Committee
The Honorable Robert Underwood,
House Resources Committee
The Honorable Frank Murkowski,
Senate Energy Committee
The Honorable Dale Bumpers,
Senate Energy Committee
The Honorable Daniel Akaka,
Senate Energy Committee
Allen Stayman, DOS