[redacted]

time in the future. Bramlett makes a strong point that return by 1987 will not be possible. Hasn't this been communicated to the Army, Interior Department and the people? If not, this should be a top priorty issued.

We also heard more recent information from Robison and Noskin at our last meeting that reduced the plutonium uptake in coconut by a factor of 50-60 and in other foods by similar factors. Once again, I hope that similar factors are being derived for americium because this nuclide will dominate the dose estimates if new data are not being obtained. Perhaps the importance of this should be communicated to Robison. However, if a similar reduction in uptake for $^{241}Am$ occurs with later data, Table XIII in Bramlett's study indicates that the EPA transuranium element guidelines will be

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within the resources available (nor is it certain that it is technically feasible without destroying the atoll).

2. The DOE fully recognizes that habitation of the northern islands must be delayed for, at least, several half-lives of $^{90}Sr$ and $^{137}Cs$ but that the cleanup goal was to permit habitation thereafter.

3. The cleanup criteria recommended for the May 4th meeting were based upon an attempt to provide the greatest impact with the resources available. While the formal calculations indicated that meeting these criteria could result in doses approaching or exceeding the EPA proposed guidelines, it was believed that these were conservative values used in the calculations that would result in a large protion of the northern islands being habitable.

4. Data are not now available to permit a firm prediction of doses from transuranics following cleanup. Current studies by Livermore

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should result in a large improvement in this situation. In the mean-time we should continue with the program as outlined, albeit keeping our eyes open for significant bits of data that could result in useful adjustments. (This requires that someone, presumably Livermore, be on top of the situation and continually follow the impact of new data.)

I do not believe that it would be useful to provide detailed page by page comments because much of what is in the report is similar to what we have heard recently. Thus, the new list is not dissimilar to that given in our last meeting and I assume that LLL can get together with Bramlett and iron out the differences. I do have some problems with Bramlett's use of the dose distribution factor but this is a detail. It may also be noted that the committee noted the problem with the LLL americium bone calculation following inhalation and this has been corrected by Livermore.

I would suggest that the committee focus on appropriate metabolic parameters to be used in such calculations. This would include such items as lung weight, bone weight, inhalation rate, and similar values. We have, I believe, already assumed americium to be Class W although some review of this may be useful. Such a set of parameters will allow better intercomparison between individual calculations and will avoid potential future controversy. I would also suggest that some attention be place on the other nuclides ($^{90}Sr$ and $^{137}Cs$) in the program at Livermore and in the Committee deliberations with the goal of providing dose estimates that will place a finite bound on the length of time before each island can be used.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. Healy

JWH:dl

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COLLECTION Marshall Islands

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Reviewed by T K Schuette Date 4/30/97