

FROM: GOV.'S PRESS OFFICE

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU
July 12, 2000

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The Honorable William Richardson
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:


I appreciate the Department of Energy (DOE), Environment, Safety, and Health Office's support of the Amchitka workers medical screening program. As you know, many people who worked at Amchitka during the nuclear testing have reported serious illnesses, including cancers. I appreciate the DOE's commitment to funding this screening program to address this critical issue.

It is a credit to the Clinton Administration that the DOE is becoming an advocate for workers throughout the nuclear complex, including those who worked at Amchitka. The DOE's proposal to Congress to revise the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include the Amchitka workers is an excellent step. The State of Alaska is committed to supporting the DOE as it undertakes this important effort.

I remain concerned, however, that little progress has been made in the development of a strong, independent environmental and human health assessment of the Amchitka Island underground nuclear test area. I urge the DOE to support an independent program which includes stakeholders such as the State of Alaska, Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association, and the University of Alaska within the DOE-funded Consortium for Risk Evaluation and Stakeholder Participation. I would appreciate it if you would keep me informed of the DOE's progress regarding the stakeholder-based assessment.

Again, thank you for your efforts on behalf of the Amchitka workers. I look forward to continuing our positive relationship with the DOE as we address the critical environmental and community health issues which remain.

Sincerely,


Tony Knowles
Governor

wednesday, July 12, 2000 4:42 PM

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The Honorable William Richardson
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cc: The Honorable Ted Stevens, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative
Carol Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dimitri Philemonof, Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association
Michele Brown, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Ed Flanagan, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
A.J. Pickarski, Alaska State District Council of Laborers