

12/02/76

04  
5

3. People of Bikini v. Seamans, et al., U.S.D.C. Hawaii, Civ. No. 75-0348

This is a suit to compel resettlement of the People of Bikini back to their home atoll. Several forms of relief are requested, including medical exams and radiological surveys. The United States is in the process of negotiating settlement of asserted grievances.

In 1946, the people of Bikini Atoll were removed to the Island of Kili in connection with the U.S. atomic bomb tests at Bikini. The last test was in 1958. The islands of the Atoll were radioactive and uninhabitable. In 1968, it was determined that Bikini, the major islands, were not safe, with certain precautions, for human habitation. Steps were initiated to clean up these islands and to rehabilitate them by providing crops (coconuts, pandanus, etc.) and housing. Bikini natives were used in these efforts. In 1974, the AEC (Now ERDA) advised Interior that further more sophisticated radiological tests would be required before full human habitation, with restrictions, should be permitted. All further efforts for rehabilitation and relocation of the Bikini natives ceased forthwith, pending the results of the tests as yet to be made. The instant suit was brought to compel these tests immediately, to provide medical analysis of the Bikini natives; particularly those who had been working on Bikini.

The defendants have agreed to provide and are providing virtually all the relief reasonably requested. The tests of Bikini have been delayed for lack of funds and because of a jurisdictional dispute between ERDA, DOD and Interior. OMB has ruled that DOD must foot the bill.

Copied from original  
material in the  
Georgetown Univ. Library

Not to be reproduced  
without specific  
permission in writing.

ERDA is prepared to conduct the tests. It will take time to mobilize to do the job. Once the tests are done, the lawsuit should be mooted.

Copied from original  
material in the  
Georgetown Univ. Library

Not to be reproduced  
without specific  
permission in writing.

17- 414240