

S/A

February 21, 1962

Mr. Richard F. Taitano  
Director, Office of Territories  
Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

PO X

Dear Mr. Taitano:

This office has been in informal communication with Colonel W. C. Gribble, Jr., Corps of Engineers, Chief, Army Nuclear Power Program, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., regarding atomic power plants for the Trust Territory.

At my request Mr. Flakne, who had worked with Colonel Gribble in Alaska, discussed the possibility of constructing such plants in the Trust Territory. Colonel Gribble seemed quite favorable to that idea, seeing in it a good opportunity for experimenting with such power under our climatic conditions. Also it is believed that the Atomic Energy Commission might like to have such plants in operation in this part of the world to prove to those people that there are great beneficial uses of atomic energy.

Presently many people here are afraid of anything connected with atomic energy as they have heard about the destruction that bombs, used during World War II, created and rumors about the dangers of atomic fall-out. However, we believe that the potential of an atomic energy plant demonstration for peaceful uses would have dramatic public relations value, especially one located in an area which has experienced the destructive effects.

For your information I enclose copies of correspondence from Colonel Gribble on this subject.

Very truly yours,

X

M. W. Goding  
High Commissioner

Enclosures (3)

Interior r.f.

JTFlakne:dm R/S None

File: EcD 19-4



NARA APPROVED

8/21/06/12

January 23, 1962

Colonel W. C. Gribble, Jr.  
Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Army Nuclear Power Program  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D. C.

Rm 64222 Grv Pt. (Tempo 7)  
72228 Gravelly Pt.

Dear Colonel Gribble:

Thank you for your letter of January 6, 1962, giving information about the Army Nuclear Power Program, the size, versatility and location of plants now in operation or nearing completion. This is extremely interesting and informative data which I hope to discuss with department officials and you on my next visit to Washington, D. C.

My plans are to leave here Friday, January 26, arriving in Washington, D. C. on or about January 30. While budget hearings and meetings with Department of the Interior officials will be my first order of business, I shall try to arrange a mutually agreeable meeting time with you.

I will welcome the opportunity of discussing the possibilities of initiating a Nuclear Power Program in the Trust Territory to help provide much needed electrical energy for the economic development of this area. Also, there should be great research and development benefits derived from the construction and operation of such plants under the climate and environmental conditions provided in this region. The establishment of such plants in this area should also have international benefits in showing the world some peaceful uses of atomic energy.

There is an urgent need for electric power in all areas of the Trust Territory. If a Nuclear Power Program were to be considered it would also be essential to give immediate consideration to training plant operators. In this field, we are extremely interested in the greatest possible use of the inhabitants of the area.

Mr. Flakne tells me that you have served in this area. Such being the case, I hope you might give me your engineering views on some airport, road and harbor construction problems that are confronting us.

For your information my brother, Joe, is presently stationed

OPERATIONAL ARCHIVES BRANCH

COPY

NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER

16 DECEMBER 1994

with Pan American World Airways in Seattle. I know he would appreciate visiting with you if time permits when you are in Seattle.

I am looking forward to a meeting with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

M. W. Goding  
High Commissioner

RECORDS OF THE  
MILITARY GOVT/CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH

COPY

OF THE OFFICE OF

THE CNO

1895 - 1976

OPERATIONAL ARCHIVES BRANCH

NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER

16 DECEMBER 1994

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Office of the Chief of Engineers  
Washington 25, D. C.

January 8, 1962

Mr. M. W. Goding  
High Commissioner  
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
P.O. Box 542  
Agana, Guam

Dear Sir:

Your interest in nuclear power has been related to me by Mr. Joseph Flakne. This response is prompted by your recent letter to Joe in which you inquired about the size and versatility of nuclear power plants.

The Army Nuclear Power Program, a joint Department of Defense and Atomic Energy Commission activity of which I am currently the Director, has been engaged in the development of relatively small, easily transported and erected plants since 1954. Seven plants, based on the technology developed in this program, are either in operation, under construction, or approved for construction at the present time. All seven of these plants have electrical outputs in the range of 1000 to 4000 kw which appears to coincide with the range of your interest.

The technical feasibility of placing plants of this size in a variety of physical environments has been quite thoroughly explored and generally confirmed. Plants capable of generating 1500 to 2000 kw of electricity are in operation in Greenland and in Virginia. Other plants are nearing completion in Alaska, Antarctica, and Wyoming. I cite these locations to acquaint you qualitatively with the versatility of the plants as related to location.

Joe has advised me of your plans to visit Washington in the near future. If your time and schedule here will permit, I would be pleased to discuss nuclear power with you at greater length. If you would like to visit our plant which is in operation at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the arrangements can be readily made. My office staff at Office, Chief of Engineers in building T-7 is normally advised of my whereabouts in the Washington area; and my absences from the area, while frequent, are generally of short duration. The phone number of my T-7 office is LI 5-6700, extension 72228.

Having met your brother during his tenure as Mayor of Ketchikan,

COPY



NARA APPROVED

*Bw* 11/06/12

Alaska, I am personally as well as officially looking forward  
to making your acquaintance.

Sincerely,

W. C. GRIBBLE, JR.  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Army Nuclear Power Program

COPI



NARA APPROVED

*Zw 11/06/12*