

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1628

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on radiation exposure relating to the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2019

Mr. STEUBE (for himself and Mrs. LURIA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on radiation exposure relating to the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Enewetak Atoll Clean-
5 up Radiation Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON RADIATION EXPOSURE RELATING TO**
2 **CLEANUP OF ENEWETAK ATOLL.**

3 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
4 seek to enter into an agreement with the National Acad-
5 emies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct
6 a study on the level of radiation exposure experienced by
7 members of the Armed Forces who participated in the
8 cleanup of Enewetak Atoll during the period beginning on
9 January 1, 1977, and ending on December 31, 1980.

10 (b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The study conducted pur-
11 suant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

12 (1) An evaluation of—

13 (A) the completeness and adequacy of the
14 assessment titled “Radiation Dose Assessment
15 for Military Personnel of the Enewetak Atoll
16 Cleanup Project (1977–1980)” published by the
17 Defense Threat Reduction Agency in April
18 2018, including with respect to the calculation
19 of the estimated upper-bound radiation dose re-
20 ceived by members of the Armed Forces who
21 participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll
22 during the period beginning on January 1,
23 1977, and ending on December 31, 1980;

24 (B) whether information exists to conduct
25 a revised or alternative radiation dose assess-
26 ment that would consider exposures and expo-

1 sure pathways that were not part of the radi-
2 ation dose assessment described in subpara-
3 graph (A); and

4 (C) whether conducting such a revised or
5 alternative radiation dose assessment is feasible
6 and would likely yield substantively improved
7 estimates of the radiation dose received by
8 members of the Armed Forces who participated
9 in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll.

10 (2) If the study determines under paragraph
11 (1)(C) that a revised or alternative radiation dose
12 assessment is feasible and would likely yield sub-
13 stantively improved estimates of the radiation dose
14 received by members of the Armed Forces who par-
15 ticipated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll, an eval-
16 uation of conducting such assessment, including—

17 (A) identification of the sources of the data
18 for such assessment, including a delineation of
19 the protocol to be used in conducting such as-
20 sessment;

21 (B) an estimate of the time and funding
22 needed to conduct such assessment;

23 (C) identification of the major sources of
24 uncertainty in such assessment and how such

1 sources may affect the estimates generated by
2 such assessment; and

3 (D) identification of the best means to
4 carry out such assessment.

5 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
6 on which the Secretary receives the study conducted pur-
7 suant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the
8 Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives and the Senate a report on such study, includ-
10 ing the plans of the Secretary to carry out any actions
11 based on the results of such study.

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