

Jones 1993  
ER ID # 14994  
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Symbol: EES-5:93-385  
Date: May 13, 1993

**memorandum**  
Geoanalysis  
EES-5

**SUBJECT: ANCHOR WEST GUN FIRING SITE REFERENCE MATERIAL**

Unclassified information concerned with the following operations at Anchor West site was obtained from a classified document. Access to this document is restricted on a Q cleared need to know basis. Projectiles used at Anchor West were made of various combinations of steel, tungsten carbide, boron carbide, lead, copper, and depleted uranium and were recovered for detailed examination. In the latter stages of testing, projectiles were sometimes fired into targets placed in the sand butt and, on occasion, the projectile and/or the target would fracture, scattering fragments over distances of up to 75 yards.

In 1945, prototypes of the Little Boy weapon were tested at the Gun-Firing Site. In these tests, depleted uranium was used in place of the enriched uranium contained in the actual weapon. Because the two materials have virtually the same mechanical properties, the nation's small supply of enriched uranium was conserved, and there was no risk of contamination of the site. Testing occasionally was performed in 1945 using small quantities of polonium and beryllium; however, there are no indications that any of these materials ever escaped the targets.

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