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31 January 1953
L1
Serial 782

From: Commander, 14th CG District
To: Commandant (R)

Subj: French Frigate Shoals Loran Transmitting Station; future construction at

Ref: (a) HQ ltr to CCGDL4(d), 10 October 1952

1. The 14th Coast Guard District understands from reference (a) that an item of \$625,000 has been included in the proposed 1954 AC&I budget "for improvement of Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals LTS".

2. It is desired to bring to Headquarters' attention at this time that the District has no knowledge of additional construction requirements at French Frigate Shoals LTS (Tern Island) during fiscal year 1954. This conclusion is reached, based on careful thought and analysis of the physical plant now existing. The buildings are of frame construction, but sturdily built. The sheet piling around the island is believed substantial for 4-6 years under normal weather conditions. There are some existing failures in this retaining wall but they are only of such magnitude that these failures can be repaired and maintained at reasonable cost with the operating expense funds. The District will observe the sea action and rate of corrosion of the sheet pilings at Tern Island and submit an AC&I project for future major maintenance or replacement if required.

3. To the best of knowledge and records presently available to the Honolulu weather bureau office, the "very unusual tropical storm of hurricane intensity" which occurred in the Hawaiian Islands and French Frigate Shoals area in August, 1950, was the first such storm in 47 years of record keeping. Maximum wind velocity recorded at the center of this storm was 90-100 mph. While the center of the storm did not pass directly over East and Tern Islands, they were subjected to winds of high velocity, and a relatively small amount of structural damage resulted to the buildings then existing. Therefore, the present 1-story frame construction (buildings existing in 1950 were modified and reinforced in 1952) is believed to be "hurricane resistant", and additional construction of reinforced concrete "typhoon-proof" structures is not considered justified for French Frigate Shoals LTS.

4. If this item is still in the FY 1954 budget, and is finally approved by Congress, it is suggested that these funds be considered for other Loran improvements in the 14th District, in lieu of additional major construction

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at French Frigate Shoals LTS. Possible projects, presently under consideration, on which these funds might be used, include:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>
(a) LTS FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS extension of high power chain and double pulse station		
1) Electronic equipment (procure and install)	\$150,000	Form 2609 #EEE-2-53 dated 9 Jan. 1953
2) Power generators (procure and install)		
4 - UD 18 engines, 50 KVA) generators)	60,000	Necessary if above 2609 is approved
2 - spares for LTS French) Frig. Shoals & Hawaii)		
3) 300 ft. antenna tower, including 1 sea anchor (procure and erect)	50,000	Recommended if above 2609 is approved
(b) Erect 300 ft. antenna towers at 3 Hawaiian Loran Stations	60,000	CORD14 ltr, 1-6-53, serial 526

5. The Commandant is requested to consider the above list of projects, together with any approved projects included in the current 14th District Advance AC&I Program, for accomplishment out of the foregoing funds.

L. W. PERKINS

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