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CARBON
DATING

September 27, 1993

Dear Oak Island Participant:

Attached is the result of the recent carbon dating procedure as performed by Beta Analytic on the wood sample provided by Dan Blankenship. Dan informs me that the sample was obtained from the side of the newly discovered shaft on Nolan's property.

The sample is modern, but impossible to say with any degree of certainty, how modern. Dr. Tamers of Beta Analytic informs me that any date as young as 300 years before present (BP) as measured before 1950 AD is highly suspect and should not be presented as a single date. Such a young date should only be stated in probabilities with enough caveats which would render a definitive statement impossible. Therefore, it would seem that our previous carbon-14 dates are also suspect since they are in the 'grey area' of approximately 300 years old and may not be scientifically reliable.

However, Dr. Tamers stated that our previous carbon date of coconut fiber as provided by Dan Henske that was retrieved from Smith's Cove that dated 770 years old is scientifically reliable and can be depended upon within the 95% probability (2 standard deviations).

The other dates as shown in the Nolan wood sample are dendro calibrations. Dendro calibrations, it is my understanding, are for use with comparisons of known date wood samples that have been previously determined by tree ring measures.

The other problem with wood samples is that it is assumed that the sample was obtained from the outer 20 rings of the tree. If this is not the case then the sample could be off by another perhaps 200 years since some trees live that long.

Keep Digging or Detecting as the Case Might Be,

Dick