



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

February 26, 1979

Honorable Scott M. Matheson
Governor of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Governor Matheson:

This is in response to your request of January 2, 1979, for assistance and cooperation in connection with the current reevaluation of the public health impact of atomic testing conducted in Nevada during the nineteen fifties.

As you have indicated in your letter, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), which has been given the lead on this project, is working closely with project participants from your state to carry out the President's direction for accomplishing this study. In addition, members of the Department of Energy (DOE) have been in communication with the HEW Project Officer at the Center for Disease Control and with some of the others who will be associated with the reevaluation to identify the kinds of information that will be needed for this study. The DOE is currently assembling information that may be relevant to the reevaluation study in order to be prepared to assist in this project to the fullest extent possible. We are working in cooperation with the Department of Defense (DOD) in regard to this effort, since DOD and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) operations in Nevada were very closely integrated during the conduct of atmospheric testing. Under a previous request, both the DOD and DOE have already made available to Dr. Joseph Lyon of the Division of Epidemiology, University of Utah Medical Center, a significant amount of data about actual fallout from atmospheric tests. In addition, the Nevada Operations Office has a considerable amount of information on the subject already assembled. I will direct Mr. M. E. Gates, the manager of that office, to contact your office about making this information immediately available.

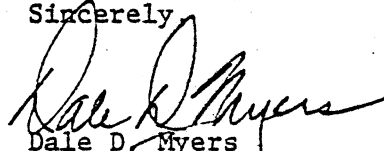
Within the DOE, these efforts are part of a more comprehensive project to assemble all information which may relate in any way to the matter of possible offsite effects of testing in Nevada. This will be an extremely large and time-consuming project, involving many different Federal agencies and contractors. Much of the information has yet to be identified and located. However, we have already begun and will proceed as rapidly as feasible to assemble this material. With respect to classified information, our intention is to review all such material presently marked as classified and to make available all information relevant to health effects of testing.

Honorable Scott M. Matheson

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The DOE recognizes its responsibility in this matter to provide information and for maintaining communication with the State of Utah and the HEW Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. We hope through this project to be able to furnish as complete as possible a source of data for the benefit of all participants in the reevaluation effort, as well as all others desiring such information in the future.

Sincerely,



Dale D. Myers
Under Secretary