



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

FEB 27 1979

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

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
STATE OF UTAH

Dear Governor Matheson:

This letter is an initial response to your request that the Department of Defense assume responsibility for identification and release of pertinent information in the files of DoD and constituent organizations concerning fallout, long- and short-term health effects, and precautions taken during nuclear weapons testing in Nevada since 1951. You also requested that pertinent restricted documents be identified so that you can initiate measures to secure the necessary authorization for release.

Although the Atomic Energy Commission--now the Department of Energy--exercised primary operational control over test activities at the Nevada Test Site, DoD personnel and units participated in the tests and provided support to the AEC for the conduct of test operations.

I have assigned your request to the Defense Nuclear Agency, and have instructed the Director of that agency that it is to be treated expeditiously. DNA will be contacting you shortly concerning the documents available in DoD files, and the most efficient way of providing you those pertinent to your needs.

I understand you have requested similar assistance from DoE, and I have asked DNA to coordinate DoD efforts with those of DoE. DNA will also keep close contact with appropriate offices in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to ensure coordination with their radiation inquiries.

An indication of the time required to comply with your request cannot be provided until we can more precisely define your needs, but I assure you that the information in DoD files which is not restricted by classification limitations will be made available through DNA as soon as possible.

I hope this procedure will be satisfactory.

Sincerely,