

STATE OF UTAH

SCOTT M. MATHESON
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY

84114

January 9, 1979

Mr. Douglas Costle, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Re: Radiation Fallout and Public Health in Utah

Dear Mr. Costle:

I am writing to request your assistance and cooperation in connection with the current re-evaluation of the public health impact of atomic testing conducted at the Nevada test site from the early 1950's to the present. I have recently become aware of facts that have given me cause to be concerned about the Nevada testing and attendant fallout. These concerns led me to request of the President that the federal government, in cooperation with the State, undertake a thorough re-examination of past studies on the health impact of the testing and design and implement new and more comprehensive studies. In a press release issued by the White House on November 27, 1978, the President directed Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Califano to undertake this effort and directed the Secretary of Defense to "cooperate fully in this endeavor."

In the statement of November 27, the President also asked Secretary Califano to "work closely with the State of Utah as he proceeds." A joint state-federal Radiation Effects Study Management Committee has already been established, with members from H.E.W., my staff, the Utah Division of Health, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and the University of Utah Medical School. This committee is to oversee the re-evaluation of past studies, as well as the formulation and implementation of any new studies.

In order that my staff and I may knowledgeably participate in this study effort, we must be fully informed of all relevant facts. Your agency is charged with the general responsibility of studying and monitoring the effects on the environment of various substances and practices. We have

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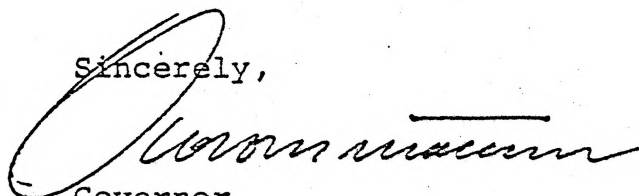
reason to believe that in fulfilling that responsibility the E.P.A. has come to have information regarding low level radiation and its effects. We would like access to that information.

The purpose of this letter is to request that your office assume responsibility for identifying all pertinent information in the files of the Environmental Protection Agency, its constituent agencies and their predecessors and for releasing that information to me. Should some of the information be restricted, I would like that information identified so that we can take the steps to arrange for its release.

Recognizing that I do not know what information may be available, I will attempt to itemize the categories to which this request relates: any information (including studies and proposals for studies) regarding fallout from the testing, including its dispersion; the long- and short-term health effects on life forms of exposure to fallout; precautions that were proposed or actually taken to protect life forms from the effect of fallout resulting from the Nevada tests. Obviously, this list is general, but once we know better what is available, we can and will be more specific.

It is imperative that the management committee have full knowledge of all the facts so that the new health studies are as thorough and comprehensive as possible. For that reason, I would appreciate your response to this request as soon as possible. I would also like an indication of the time required for you to expeditiously comply with the request.

Sincerely,



Governor

SMM:mlw

cc: The Honorable Joseph Califano
Mr. Eugene Eidenberg
Ms. Sue Foster, H.E.W.
Dr. Lyman J. Olsen,
Director, Utah Division of Health
Dr. Chase Peterson, University of Utah
Medical School
Dr. William Foege,
Atlanta Center for Disease Control