

SCOTT M. MATHESON
GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114

February 2, 1979

Major General Joseph K. Bratton
Director, Military Applications
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Re: Request for Fallout Related Information

Dear General Bratton:

This letter is a follow up to a letter Governor Matheson sent to Secretary Schlesinger on January 2, 1979 (a copy of which is attached), and a telephone conversation I had with Thomas Cornwell of the Department on January 31, 1979. Mr. Cornwell suggested that I write to you.

The purpose of my call to Mr. Cornwell was to determine whether and when we could expect a response to the Governor's January letter. We have already received responses to similar requests made of the Department of Defense and other agencies. Mr. Cornwell told me that the tentative plan was for a gathering and declassification of all relevant materials in the possession of D.O.E. and D.O.D., and their being made available to interested parties at one location. Because of the vast volume of documents, this process will take a number of months. However, Mr. Cornwell said that the Department considers this to be the best course for removing any doubts that further studies to be done on radiation effects will be based on all the available information.

Mr. Cornwell thought that a letter from the Secretary setting out the specifics of this planned course of action would be forthcoming in the next week. He suggested that if

Major General Joseph K. Bratton
February 1, 1979
Page Two

this office had any thoughts on the subject, I should convey them to you.

As I understand the proposed program, it seems well calculated to bring into full view all relevant documentation. This should be of great assistance to the upcoming State/Federal Radiation Effects Study that is to be undertaken here in Utah. I can only urge that this proposal move ahead as quickly as possible so as to be of maximum benefit to the public and this study.

However, the long delay necessary to gather and de-classify all the documents will create problems for the radiation study, and, equally as important, will raise credibility questions for all those involved, insofar as it prevents the immediate release of all documentation concerning certain key areas of scientific and public interest. Accordingly, on behalf of the Governor I request that while the complete disclosure program is moving ahead, the Department immediately gather and release all documents that refer to or in any way pertain to the following subject matters:

- (i) the 1953-1955 investigation of sheep losses and injuries occurring in the Southern Utah-Eastern Nevada area which allegedly related to the Nevada testing, including, but not limited to, the formulation by Gordon Dunning and/or others of the conclusions of the study, the decisions made regarding the scope and character of follow up studies, and the AEC's decision to proceed with the 1954 test series in light of the investigation's results;

- (ii) all the thyroid and leukemia studies done in Utah and Arizona covering the period 1950 through the early 1970's, including, but not limited to, decisions concerning the scope, funding levels, duration, commencement, termination and staffing of the studies, and the review, criticism, editing, modification and publication, in whole or in part, of the results of these studies.

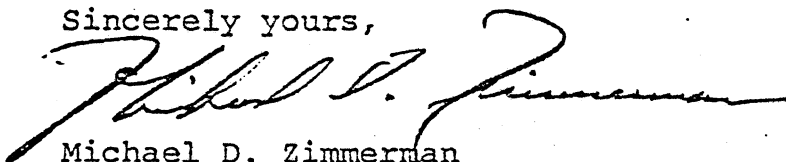
It is essential that the Secretary's reply to the Governor's letter take cognizance of these areas of inquiry. These are a matter of current concern to the Governor, to the public and to the scientific community. Any response that fails to deal

Major General Joseph K. Bratton
February 1, 1979
Page Three

specifically with these will likely be seen as inadequate and as an attempt to further delay the release of information that ought to clear up serious questions about these matters.

Mr. Cornwell was most cooperative. I hope this reflects the general view of the Department toward these matters. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Michael D. Zimmerman
Administrative Assistant to the
State Planning Coordinator and
Member, State/Federal Radiation
Effects Study Management Committee

MDZ:jfb

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
College of Medicine
Dr. William Foege, Atlanta Center for
Disease Control

Enclosure