



SCOTT M. MATHESON
GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114

January 9, 1979

The Honorable Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
Secretary, Department of Health,
Education and Welfare
Washington, D.C.

Re: Radiation Fallout and Public Health in Utah

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to apprise you of my posture with respect to the release of information that may come into my possession and that may be pertinent to the question of what effect, if any, fallout from nuclear testing in Nevada has had upon public health in Utah.

As you are aware, this office is actively cooperating with the federal government in the re-evaluation of earlier studies and in the formulation and implementation of new studies. I remain firmly committed to working closely with you through the Radiation Effects Study Management Committee, which has been established among H.E.W., C.D.C., the Utah Division of Health, the University of Utah Medical School and my staff. However, recent events, such as the unexpected discovery of the previously unpublished Weiss report, suggest that diligent efforts must be made to avoid even the appearance of information management that is motivated by personal or governmental, as opposed to public, interests. Such an appearance alone could seriously erode the credibility of the entire joint inquiry mandated by President Carter in his November 27, 1978, press release. Consequently, I feel it necessary to spell out the approach this office will take in dealing with arguably relevant information.

In order that my staff and I can knowledgeably participate in the joint state-federal effort, it has become necessary that we gather all relevant information concerning past studies that may have been suggested or actually undertaken, as well as other fallout data collected over the years. To that end, I have asked Secretaries Bergland, Brown, Schlesinger and Administrator Costle to undertake a review of the files of

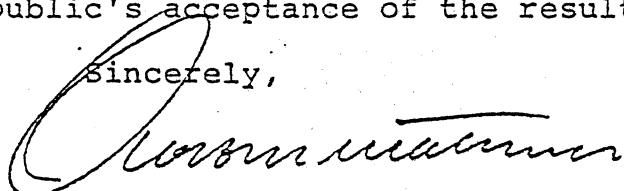
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their agencies and to furnish me with the results. I have also requested that various divisions of Utah state government undertake a thorough file search to locate all pertinent documents. An early product of that search was a copy of the Weiss leukemia study, found in the files of the Utah Division of Health, which was released by my office on January 8, 1979.

I fully expect that other relevant documents will turn up as a result of my requests of federal officials, searches of state records and people coming forward and volunteering information. I feel that it is my obligation to make all relevant information available to the people of Utah as soon as possible. Once such information has been cleared, in accordance with the Utah statutes respecting privacy and any other applicable laws, I will make it public. Immediately in advance of releasing this information, it is my intention to notify each member of the joint Radiation Effects Study Management Committee of the impending release and of the nature of the information to be released.

I think that you will understand the need for the above-described policy. I do not see it as in any way being inconsistent with the joint state-federal efforts now underway. In fact, to the extent it avoids any appearance of impropriety, it should strengthen the public's acceptance of the results.

Sincerely,



Governor

SMM:mlw

cc: Mr. Eugene Eidenberg
Ms. Sue Foster, H.E.W.
Dr. Lyman J. Olsen,
Director, Utah Division of Health
Dr. Chase Peterson, University of Utah
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