



Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

January 27, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL

Ms. Jenna Greene
The National Law Journal
1730 M. Street
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Greene:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (FOI 2012-00508)

This is a final response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You asked for information regarding the 383 plaintiffs you assert have entered into settlement agreements in the In re Hanford Nuclear Reservation Litigation, as noted by Judge William Fremming Nielsen on December 6, 2011. Specifically, you asked for the "total amount of taxpayer money spent to settle these 383 claims."

Your request was forwarded to this office for response. Pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), section 1004.4(d), we conducted a search of the files and found that there are no documents showing the total dollar amount that the United States has paid to settle the 383 claims to which you refer. The court accurately reported that the 383 plaintiffs have entered into settlement agreements. However, the agreements must be executed by each plaintiff prior to receiving payment from the defendants, and prior to the defendants receiving reimbursement from the United States. Because these settlement agreements are still being executed and otherwise processed, the United States has not reimbursed the defendants for a settlement with the referenced 383 plaintiffs.

The undersigned individual is responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, as provided in 10 CFR 1004.8, for the adequacy of our search. Any such appeal shall be made in writing to the following address: Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals (HG-1), U.S. Department of Energy, L'Enfant Plaza Building, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20585-1615, and shall be filed within 30 days after receipt of this letter. Should you choose to appeal, please provide this office with a copy of your letter.

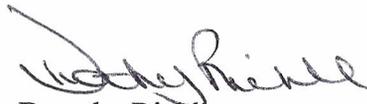
Ms. Jenna Greene

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at our address above or on (509) 376-6288.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dorothy Riehle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dorothy Riehle
Freedom of Information Act Officer
Office of Communications
and External Affairs

OCE:DCR