



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

CERTIFIED MAIL

August 11, 2014

Mr. Tom Carpenter  
Hanford Challenge  
219 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South  
Suite 310  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (FOI 2014-01094)

This letter is an interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that you sent to this office requesting the following records:

1. "Any and all records related to or generated in connection with a contract involving Savannah River National Lab and any Hanford contractor, including but not limited to Washington River Protection Solutions, Inc. (WRPS) and/or the Department of Energy (DOE), concerning or related to the issue of chemical vapors at the Hanford site in 2014. I have attached a Press Release from the Savannah River National Lab to assist you in identifying records responsive to this request."
2. "Any and all correspondence, directives, e-mails, texts and/or memoranda generated by personnel within the DOE's Office of River Protection that are related in any way to chemical vapor exposures, dated from March 1, 2014 to the present date."
3. "Any and all Problem Evaluation Requests (PERs) related to or generated in connection with chemical vapor incidents occurring at the Hanford site from January, 2010 to the present time."
4. "Any and all memoranda and/or reports relating to or generated in connection with incidents where employees were sent or reported for medical evaluation due to alleged vapor exposures, (to include reports of smells or odors), at the Hanford site dated from January 1, 2010 to the present."

Enclosed are documents responsive to Item 4 of your request. Within the documents, we have deleted names, certain job titles, personal cell phone numbers and any other personal information that could be used to identify the individuals pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA. Exemption 6 provides that an agency may protect from disclosure all personal information if its disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy by subjecting the individuals to unwanted communications, harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or other substantial privacy invasions by interested parties.

In invoking Exemption 6 we considered 1) whether a significant privacy interest would be invaded by disclosure of information, 2) whether release of the information would further the public interest by shedding light on the operations or activities of the government, and 3) whether in balancing the private interest against the public interest, disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. We have determined that the public interest in the identity of the individuals whose names and personal information appear in the documents does not outweigh the individuals' privacy interests.

All releasable information in the documents has been segregated and is being provided to you. 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 any information denied to you in this letter. 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.

We continue to search for documents responsive to Items 1, 2 and 4 of your request and will notify you when our search and review is complete.

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

Sincerely,

-Original Signed By-

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

OCE:DCR

Enclosure