



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

April 3, 2018

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Alex Wellerstein
Stevens Institute of Technology
1 Castle Point Terrace
College of Arts and Letters
Hoboken, New Jersey 07030

Dear Mr. Wellerstein:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (FOI 2018-00683)

This letter is in further response to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request you submitted to this office, requesting the following information:

...any records pertaining to a death that took place as part of the Hanford site work on the Manhattan Project. Specifically, a US Atomic Energy Commission report describes the death in the following terms: 7/22/1944 - Hanford (Operations) - While driving at a high rate of speed, the driver, an instrument engineer, was thrown from the truck and killed when it turned over twice. He died of multiple internal and skeletal injuries. I do not know the name of the victim or any other circumstances. I am requesting all releasable records on this incident. Operational accidents and radiation exposure experience within United States Atomic Energy Commission WASH-1192 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Division of Operational Safety, 1975), 42.

During our search for records, we located a document titled "Operational Accidents and Radiation Exposure Experience within the United States Atomic Energy Commission 1943-1975" by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Division of Operational Safety. This document is publicly available on the internet at: <https://www.osti.gov/servlets/purl/7275927>.

We also located a copy of the enclosed Certificate of Death for a Mr. William Paul Paris, which appears to be responsive to your request, as the date of death, occupation and means of injury are identical to the information you provided in your request. Within this document, this office deleted the social security number, date of birth and age belonging to Mr. Paris and the name of the surviving spouse, 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 third-party 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 disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of private or public interest. DOE has determined that the public interest in the identity and personal information of the third-party individuals whose information appear in the documents does not outweigh the individuals' privacy interests.

In addition, we located the attached document titled "H.E.W. Major Injury Chart," dated 1943 through 1944. We are unable to determine if this document pertains to the accident you referenced above; however, because it pertains to injuries and falls within the same period, a copy is being provided to you as a courtesy.

We conducted a thorough search for any other documents responsive to your request and were unable to locate any. We searched the multiple archive files and databases in the Records Holding Area that maintains and stores archived Hanford Site records and records located in the Integrated Data Management System. The search for documents was conducted by individuals within the agency who are most familiar with the subject matter of your request, in locations where documents would most likely be found. Both manual and electronic searches were conducted using key words that would most likely identify any documents. Approximately 247 documents were identified and those documents were reviewed and were not responsive to your request. In addition, a search was also conducted using the name and social security number provided on the enclosed Certificate of Death and no other responsive documents were located. Approximately 25 hours of search time was spent in our search for responsive documents.

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 our determination. Should you choose to exercise this right, your appeal must be filed within 90 days after receipt of this letter. You may submit your appeal by email to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase "Freedom of Information Appeal" in the subject line. Alternatively, any such appeal may 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. Should you choose to appeal, please provide this office with a copy of your appeal email or letter.

You may contact the DOE Richland Operations Office FOIA Public Liaison, Richard Buel, at (509) 376-3375, or by mail at P.O. Box 550, Richland, Washington, 99352, for any further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

Mr. Alex Wellerstein

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April 3, 2018

This letter completes our response to your request. If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact me at our address provided on page 1 or at (509) 376-6288.

Sincerely,

-Original Signed By-

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

OCE:DCR

Enclosures