



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

September 13, 2018

CERTIFIED MAIL

Ms. Zahra Hirji
BuzzFeed News
1630 Connecticut Avenue
Northwest 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Ms. Hirji:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (FOI 2018-01456)

This letter is in response to the electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request you submitted to this office, requesting “copies of all communication among Department of Energy staff, including but not limited to Doug Shoop and Anne White, and between DOE staff and its Hanford contractors CH2M Hill and WRPS relating and/or referring to the May 2018 report: ‘Test Plan for the Radiochemical Analysis of MERV 8 Air Handling Intake Filter.’ This report was published on [sic] May 2018 by Washington River Protection Solutions LLC’s S.R. Doll and was prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection.”

In a telephone conversation with me on August 14, 2018, you clarified your request and stated you were seeking 1) emails between Doug Shoop and Anne White, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management (EM), from February 21, 2018, to present regarding the report “Test Plan for the Radiochemical Analysis of MERV 8 Air Handling Intake Filter” and 2) emails between Doug Shoop and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Richland Operations Office (RL) staff from February 21, 2018, to present regarding the report “Test Plan for the Radiochemical Analysis of MERV 8 Air Handling Intake Filter.”

A thorough search was conducted of the Exchange (email) Environment for Mr. Shoop and all RL staff using queries related to the subject matter of your request and no documents were located.

As your request asks for emails between Mr. Shoop and Ms. White, your request has been transferred to the DOE Headquarters (HQ) FOIA Office to conduct a search of EM files. Upon completion of the search and review of any documents located, a response will be provided to you. If you have any questions about the processing of your request under HQ, you may contact Mr. Alexander Morris at Alexander.Morris@hq.doe.gov, or by mail at DOE HQ, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, MA-46, Washington, D.C. 20585, or at (202) 586-3159.

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. 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 (this is the method preferred by the Office of Hearings and Appeals). 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. Your appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 CFR 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either (1) in the district where you reside, (2) where you have your principal place of business, (3) where DOE's records are situated, or (4) in the District of Columbia. Should you choose to appeal, please provide this office with a copy of your appeal.

You may contact the RL FOIA Public Liaison, Richard Buel, at (509) 376-3375, or by mail at P.O. Box 550, Richland, Washington, 99352 for any further assistance and 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.

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