



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

September 9, 2019

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Vernon Thornblad



Dear Mr. Thornblad:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (FOI 2019-01279)

This letter is in reference to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request you submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters FOIA Office on July 3, 2019. Your request was forwarded to this office and was received on August 26, 2019. In your request you asked for:

Information confirming whether Republic Steel actually received radioactive isotopes and if so, in which facility they were received. I also request information on the nature of their experimentation and work with radioactive isotopes, its purpose and the results. I also request information on what became of the radioactive isotopes and any contaminated equipment and/or waste that resulted upon the conclusion of their work. Is there a record in which storage facility all of the radioactive materials, waste, and contaminated equipment were taken? If so, does it account for all of the possible waste, etc. or could some of the waste have wound up elsewhere? Lastly, I am seeing any information relating to possible permits Republic Steel or others may have received for storage of radioactive materials in any of the mines located in Mineville, Witherbee or Port Henry, NY.

In a telephone conversation with me on August 21, 2019, you narrowed the scope of your request to a search for records using the query "Republic Steel" + "isotope(s)" and dated January 1, 1942, through December 31, 1946. In a series of emails between August 23 and August 26, 2019, you confirmed this reflected our conversation correctly but asked that the search for records be extended through the date December 31, 1948.

We searched the archive files and multiple databases in the Records Holding Area that maintains and stores archived Hanford Site records, and records located in the Integrated Document Management System using the query as described on page 1 for the time period January 1, 1942, through December 31, 1948, and no documents were located.

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 this 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 (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. The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 CFR 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Should you choose to appeal, please provide my office with a copy of your appeal. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court (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.

You may contact the DOE Richland Operations Office (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.

For the purposes of assessment of any fees, we have determined that your request falls under 10 CFR 1004.9(b)(4), ("all other requestors") of our FOIA regulations. You are thus entitled to two free hours of search time and 100 pages of duplication at no cost. Search time incurred for your request was 1.5 hours, therefore, there are no costs associated with your request as this time.

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

Sincerely,

-Original signed by-

Dorothy Riehle
Freedom of Information Act Officer
Hanford Site Office of Communications

OCE:DCR