

HQ-2021-00303-F

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:38 PM

To: FOIA-Central <foia-central@hq.doe.gov>

Subject: Form submission from: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request Form

Submitted on Thursday, January 14, 2021 - 12:34 Submitted by anonymous user:

Submitted values are:

==Contact information==

Name: Barbara J Warren, RN, MS

Organization: Citizens' Environmental Coalition

Address:

==Reasonably Describe Records==

Description:

The records we seek pertain to the planned DOE Open air demolition of the Main Plant Process Bldg. at the West Valley Demonstration Project in the State of New York as compared to the utilization of a full temporary enclosure for the building to reduce radioactive emissions during demolition. The MPPB received Spent Nuclear Fuel for reprocessing over approximately six years. Subsequently the MPPB was used by DOE for solidifying high level radioactive waste into a glass substance, referred to as vitrification. This building is contaminated with high level waste and Greater than Class C waste, in addition to hazardous chemicals.

Following the collapse of a large tunnel storing nuclear waste at the Hanford nuclear waste site in the state of Washington in May 2017, the public was very concerned related to the use of the open air demolition and the same contractor firm-CH2M Hill at West Valley.

explained at the May Quarterly Public Meeting that DOE would evaluate the use of a full enclosure for the Demolition of the Main Plant Process Building, and compare it to open air demolition. He also indicated that DOE Management planned to be involved in the review and evaluation of demolition options.

It was not until the West Valley Main Plant Process Bldg. Decontamination and Decommissioning Plan, Revision 3 was submitted to NRC in Sept. 2019 that we learned that DOE had made a determination to proceed with Open Air Demolition. Since that time we have asked for additional information from DOE Project Director, pertaining to the planned evaluations comparing a full building enclosure to open air demolition.

Subsequently in November 2020, informed me (B. Warren) via telephone that no evaluation or comparative assessments were ever performed. Instead says he worked with current contractors and developed procedures that were adequate or satisfactory for him. Unfortunately the developed procedures were determined to be proprietary by the involved contractors and thus were not available for public review. Neither were the procedures presented and explained to the public.

The fundamental topic of interest relates primarily to public health and safety impacts associated with radioactive and hazardous emissions released during demolition activities, primarily airborne but also via water contamination. NRC has requested a comprehensive radiological inventory inclusive of all the individual rooms or cells in the MPPB. NRC plans to then evaluate the potential airborne emissions that could be released. DOE has not completed this inventory for the MPPB.

Since indicated that DOE's central office would be involved in the evaluation planned in 2017, this FOIA request seeks to obtain information pertaining to any and all evaluations and reports, subsequent to the events at the Hanford nuclear waste site in 2017 including the tunnel collapse and the subsequent plutonium release from the plutonium finishing plant, and any similar events nationally that analyzed and compared Open Air Demolition of a highly radioactively contaminated building to the effectiveness of a Full Building enclosure to better control airborne emissions during demolition. We are interested in any and all comparative evaluations, including air emissions

modelling, done by DOE or assigned to national labs or universities, or contracted out to external contractors.

We also note that a full building enclosure was employed in Schenectady, NY at the Knolls Lab as a result of unplanned radioactive releases.

Specify preferred form or format: Electronic files or a disk containing the records

==Type of requestor==

Select a description of yourself and the purpose of the request to help determine your category for assessing fees: Affiliated with an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, and this request is made for scholarly or scientific purpose and not for commercial use.

Affiliation: Citizens' Environmental Coalition

==Fees and waivers==

Please select the statement that applies: I agree to pay up to a specified amount for fees.

Maximum fee amount: \$25

==Expedited processing==

Justification: an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity exists (this option available ONLY for requesters primarily engaged in disseminating information).

Please provide your specific justification for expedited processing: DOE has indicated that the demolition could start in Spring 2021.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.energy.gov/node/>