



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Office of the General Counsel  
P.O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400



September 14, 2023

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Caleb Fairchild

(b) (6)



Dear Mr. Fairchild,

This letter is the final response to your March 4, 2021, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. You requested the following:

I would like to request any and all documents related to unidentified flying object, unidentified aerial phenomena, or unidentified submerged objects made by DOE employees or contractors that have taken place at any DOE properties or facilities. This includes sightings over buildings, power plants, nuclear facilities, etc where a UFO/UAP/USO was observed.

On August 16, 2021, via email, you narrowed your search to cover the past 10 years.

Your request was transferred to this office by the Department of Energy (DOE) on March 15, 2021, and we received it on March 17, 2021. Upon receipt, we contacted the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Office of Defense Nuclear Security (NA-70) about your request. NA-70 identified six field locations which may have records responsive to your request. We then contacted the NNSA's Los Alamos Field Office (NA-LA), Livermore Field Office (NA-LL), Nevada Field Office (NA-NV), NNSA Production Office (NA-NPO), and Sandia Field Office (NA-SN) which provide oversight for the Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS), the Pantex Nuclear Weapons Plant and the Y-12 National Security Complex (NPO, Pantex/Y-12), and the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), respectively, about your request. These sites searched and located the following 22 records totaling 184 pages responsive to your request. An explanation regarding the releasability of each document is provided below.

The following record is provided with deletions pursuant to 5 USC § 552 (b)(3) and (b)(6) (Exemptions 3 and 6 of the FOIA).

- Document 1 - NNSA-2015-009581 - COR-NPO-20 SS-992015-642025 (7 pages)

The following three records are provided with deletions pursuant to 5 USC § 552 (b)(6) (Exemption 6 of the FOIA).

- Document 2 - 19701123 - A-83-001\_2-1 (4 pages)
- Document 3 - PFD Operations Report 180319-2 (2 pages)
- Document 4 - PFD Operations Report 190430-13 (3 pages)

The following 19 records are provided with deletions pursuant to 5 USC § 552 (b)(6) and (b)(7)(E) (Exemptions 6 and 7E of the FOIA).

- Document 5 - NPO Night Note, Friday, January 22, 2021 (1 page)
- Document 6 - NPO Night Note, Monday, February 1, 2021 (1 page)
- Document 7 - NPO Night Note, Tuesday, April 6, 2021 (1 page)
- Document 8 - NPO Night Note, Thursday, July 1, 2021 (4 pages)
- Document 9 - NPO Night Note, Tuesday, October 12, 2021 (2 pages)
- Document 10 - Pantex Night Note Thursday October 6, 2022 (2 pages)
- Document 11 - PX23-002; Report (5 pages)
- Document 12 - Y18-127 - 04-28-2018 (14 pages)
- Document 13 - Y18-137 - 05-11-2018 (10 pages)
- Document 14 - Y18-169 - 06-23-2018 (9 pages)
- Document 15 - Y18-223 - 08-07-2018 (10 pages)
- Document 16 - Y18-279 - 09-30-2018 (11 pages)
- Document 17 - Y20-025 - 10-28-2019 (46 pages)
- Document 18 - Y21-055 - 01-20-2021 (12 pages)
- Document 19 - Y21-061 - 01-28-2021 (11 pages)
- Document 20 - Y21-098 - 04-02-2021 (8 pages)
- Document 21 - Y21-165 - 06-30-2021 (13 pages)
- Document 22 - Y22-002 - 10-08-2021 (8 pages)

**Exemption 3** exempts the disclosure of information that is specifically prohibited from release by statute provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld. The Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954, as amended, 42 USC § 2011 et seq., is an Exemption 3 statute. Section 148 of this Act (42 USC §§ 2161-2166) prohibit the disclosure of information concerning atomic energy defense programs that is determined to be Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information (UCNI) pursuant to the AEA, as amended.

The portions redacted pursuant to Exemption 3 contain information about security measures for the physical protection of nuclear materials contained in production or utilization facilities that have been safeguarded as UNCI. Disclosure of the exempt data would have a significant adverse effect on the common defense and security by significantly increasing the likelihood of theft, diversion, or sabotage of nuclear materials. Pursuant to 10 CFR, Part 1004.1, and to the extent permitted by law, DOE will make available records that it is authorized to withhold under the FOIA unless it determines that such disclosure is not in the public interest.

With respect to the information withheld pursuant to Exemption 3, the DOE has no further discretion under the FOIA or DOE regulations to release information currently and properly classified and safeguarded as UCNI pursuant to the AEA as amended.

**Exemption 6** permits the withholding of personnel and medical files and similar files when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The purpose of Exemption 6 is to protect individuals from the injury and embarrassment that can result from the unnecessary disclosure of personal information. To determine whether disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, the public interest in disclosure, if any, must be balanced against the privacy interests that would be invaded by disclosure of the information. In this case, the names, employee numbers, email addresses, and other personal information of federal and contractor employees have been withheld. Release of this information pertaining to those employees will cause inevitable harassment and unwarranted invasion of personal privacy for those individuals and could cause unwarranted scrutiny by persons or entities harboring political or philosophical or other objections to the mission related to nuclear facility operations. In addition, release of this information would not shed light on the operations of the federal government since the underlying information related to the agency's actions is being provided. Since its release will not reveal anything of significance to the public, the interest in protecting against the invasion of privacy that would result to the individuals in question far outweighs the public interest in such disclosure.

**Exemption 7E** of the FOIA provides protection for all information compiled for law enforcement purposes when release would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law. The term "law enforcement" can include activities associated with preventing breaches to national security.

The portions redacted pursuant to Exemption 7(E) contain information that reveals security procedures, or vulnerability analyses and related detailed statistical input used to generate security procedures for critical nuclear facilities. Release of this information could cause harm by directly revealing law enforcement security procedures or by revealing the limiting parameters and processes used to generate the security procedures. If this information were released to the public, an individual wishing to cause harm could discern security procedures that would not otherwise be publicly released, and which are necessary to protect critical nuclear facilities.

Pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.7(b)(2), I am the individual responsible for the withholding of information pursuant to Exemptions 3, 6, and 7E of the FOIA.

NA-70 identified two other DOE locations that may have records responsive to your request. These locations are the DOE Idaho Operations Office (ID) and Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). We transferred your request to ID and SPR on August 18, 2021, and these offices will contact you with the results of their search. If you would like to contact them directly, they can be reached at the following addresses.

DOE-ID FOIA Officer  
1955 Fremont Avenue, MS 1209,  
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

U.S. Department of Energy  
Strategic Petroleum Reserve Project  
Management Office  
FOIA Officer, FE-445  
900 Commerce Road East  
New Orleans, LA 70123

You may appeal our withholding of information pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.8. Such an appeal must be made in writing within 90 calendar days after receipt of this letter, addressed to the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, L'Enfant building, Washington, DC 20585. Your appeal must contain a concise statement of the grounds for the appeal and a description of the relief sought. **Please submit a copy of this letter** with the appeal and clearly mark both the envelope and the letter "Freedom of Information Appeal." You may submit your appeal by email (preferred method) to [OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov](mailto:OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov), including the phrase "Freedom of Information Appeal" in the subject line. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the District of Columbia or in the district where (1) you reside, (2) you have your principal place of business, or (3) the Department's records are situated.

You may contact me, NNSA's FOIA Public Liaison, Office of the General Counsel, at 1-866-747-5994, or by mail to Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of the General Counsel, PO Box 5400, Albuquerque, NM 87185, for 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 as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

There are no charges to you for processing your FOIA request. If you have questions, please contact (b) (6) by e-mail at (b) (6) or write to the address above. Please reference Control Number FOIA 21-00156-LB in your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Christina H. Hamblen  
Hamblen

Digitally signed by  
Christina H. Hamblen  
Date: 2023.09.14  
11:03:48 -06'00'

Christina H. Hamblen  
Privacy Act Officer

Enclosures