



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



November 7, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL

(b) (6)

Mr. Tom Rogan
Washington Examiner
(b) (6)

Dear Mr. Rogan,

This letter is the final response to your September 23, 2021, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. You requested the following:

“Any DOE/contractor reporting from between 2010-2021 of unidentified aerial phenomena in proximity SLAC National accelerator laboratory, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, Argonne National Laboratory, Ames Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories (“LLNL”, Los Alamos National Laboratory (“LANL”), Sandia National Laboratories (“SNL”).”

The portion of your request related to LLNL, LANL and SNL was transferred to this office by the Department of Energy (DOE) on October 12, 2021, and we received it on October 13, 2021. The other sites mentioned in your request will respond to you directly regarding their respective searches and results.

We contacted the Lawrence Livermore Field Office (NA-LL) that has oversight responsibility for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory about your request. NA-LL and the management and operating contractor, Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) conducted searches for responsive records and located the following responsive documents which are provided with deletions pursuant to 5 USC § 552 (b)(6) (Exemption 6 of the FOIA).

- PFD Operations Report 180319-2
- PFD Operations Report 190430-13
- PFD Operations Report 191018-2
- PFD Operations Report 210401-1

We also contacted the Los Alamos Field Office (NA-LA) that has oversight responsibility for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) about your request. NA-LA and the management and operating contractor, Triad National Security, LLC (Triad) conducted searches for responsive

records in the following locations: the Laboratory's Defense Security Program (DFS) / Physical Security group incident report collections; eDOCS and ePegasus. The following search terms were used: "unidentified aerial phenomenon," "UAP," "unidentified flying object," "UFO" "Unidentified aerial phenomena in proximity SLAC National accelerator laboratory 2010-2021," "Unidentified aerial phenomena in proximity Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility 2010-2021," "Unidentified aerial phenomena in proximity Argonne National Laboratory 2010-2021," "Unidentified aerial phenomena in proximity Ames Laboratory 2010-2021," "Unidentified aerial phenomena in proximity Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory 2010-2021," and "Unidentified aerial phenomena in proximity Los Alamos National Laboratory 2010-2021. No responsive records were located.

Finally, we contacted the Sandia Field Office (NA-SN) that has oversight responsibility for Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) about your request. NA-SN and the management and operating contractor, National Technology & Energy Solutions of Sandia, LLC (NTESS) searched for responsive records. NA-SN and NTESS searched the Corporate Archives and Funded Records Center, the EIMS FileNet (Corporate Archives, Digital Archive and CSandia corporate digital image repository), Versatile Software (for Corporate Archives physical holdings in corporate inactive records storage), EIMS and Versatile/Inactive Storage, and bibliographic databases within the Unclassified and Classified Library Catalogs. The searches were conducted using the timeframe specified, and a variation of keywords and keyword combinations of "unidentified aerial phenomena," "phenomena," "aerial phenomena," "unidentified aerial," "unidentified aerial phenom**," and "UAP." No responsive records were located.

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, and other personal information of contractor employees have been withheld. Release of this information pertaining to those contractor 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 reactors and nuclear material. In addition, release of this information would not shed light on the operations of the federal government. 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.

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

You may appeal our withholding and inability to locate records 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, 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; 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 22-00006-LB in your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Christina H.
Hamblen

Digitally signed by
Christina H. Hamblen
Date: 2022.11.07
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Christina H. Hamblen
FOIA Officer