



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585
March 26, 1990

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ATTACHMENT M
Page 1 of 21

Mr. Michael J. Lawrence
Manager
Richland Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Lawrence:

In my initiative to chart a new course for the Department of Energy (DOE) toward full accountability in the areas of environment, safety, and health, I delineated a four point program to ensure that the Department's epidemiologic research activities are appropriate, effective, and represent excellence. The conduct of epidemiologic studies of DOE contractor workers requires certain basic data found only in contractor administrative, organizational and operational records. The basic data include medical, personnel, exposure, work history and litigation records. It is imperative that these data, which are of potential value for assessing the health consequences of exposures to radiation or toxic substances, not be lost or destroyed. The Director of Energy Research, in his letter of March 15, 1989, to all Operations Office Managers requested that these types of data be retained by contractor organizations, and the Secretarial Panel for the Evaluation of Epidemiologic Research Activities (SPEERA) has recommended to me in its interim report to immediately extend the moratorium on the destruction of such records.

I hereby extend the moratorium on the destruction of the records identified in the March 15, 1989, letter that are important for the conduct of epidemiologic studies until such time as the records management and disposition schedule can be properly amended.

Please inform all Department of Energy contractor organizations under your cognizance of this directive and contact local Federal Records Centers responsible for the management of your records to ensure that proper measures are implemented immediately to retain, store, protect and preserve the data in question.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James D. Watkins".

James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)

From: DOECAS AT ES1@ES on 12/24/98 11:49 AM
To: #ALLEH, Notes Boards
cc:
Subject: PROTECTION OF HEALTH RELATED-RECORDS

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES

FROM: BILL RICHARDSON
SUBJECT: Protection of Health-Related Records

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting research on the impact of the Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessors on health and safety, we must protect and make accessible all relevant records.

This is to remind all DOE employees and contractors that it is prohibited to destroy records that may be required for epidemiologic and other health-related research at DOE sites.

My commitment to facilitating this research and to the continuing availability of records that make this research possible, derives from my belief in openness: the necessity to make information available so it can benefit the citizens to whom it belongs. Although there are costs and difficulties associated with this process, I believe that the effort is fundamental to our missions.

This freeze on destruction of epidemiologic records has been in effect since 1990 and covers specific groups of records at Headquarters and at each DOE site identified as potentially useful in epidemiologic research. If you have any questions about which records are covered by this freeze, please contact your site or office records manager. For general questions, you may also call the Office of Records, Research, Data and Access (EH-64) at (301) 903-5090.