



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



December 16, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Tom Clements
Savannah River Site Watch
1114 Florence Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Tomclements329@cs.com

Dear Mr. Clements:

This letter is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated March 31, 2020 for a copy of the following:

“List of “Mission Critical” Operations and Activities at SRS, in response to COVID-19

1. List of all “minimum mission-critical activities,” jobs and projects at SRS, both of EM and NNSA as determined under COVID-19 response protocol in March 2020;
2. List of “Limited Operations/Situational Essential personnel for our EM missions;”
3. List of all activities, jobs and projects at SRS, both EM and NNSA, determined not to be critical under the COVID-19 response protocol; and
4. All plans, directives and guidelines to implement SRS mission-critical activities and “limited operations” COVID-19 response by EM and NNSA.”

In a May 21, 2020 email with Lucy Knowles, Chief Counsel for Savannah River Site (DOE-SR), you narrowed the scope of items 1-3 of your request, to request a “list of which operations had been deemed essential.” Also, according to that communication, you agreed to accept the information contained on pages 14-15 of the COOP plan rather than the entire document, which pertains to item number 4 listed above.

Your request was originally sent to the Savannah River Site (DOE-SR) who transferred your request to us, and it was received in this office on May 28, 2020.

We contacted the Savannah River Field Office (NA-SV) to conduct a search for responsive documents pertaining to your request. NA-SV conducted a search and located responsive records pertaining to items 1-4 of your request according to your agreed upon new scope.

Responsive Records:

The following document is responsive to items 1-3 of your request and is being provided in its entirety.

- Doc 0001 SRMO-DTI-001 Rev 1, SRPMO Oversight and Execution-Telework Plan

The following document is responsive to item 4 of your request and is being provided with deletions pursuant to 5 USC § 552 (b)(7)(F) (Exemption 7F of the FOIA).

- Doc 0002 COOP Plan_ pgs. 14-15

Exemption 7F

Exemption 7(F) of the FOIA protects from disclosure, records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes to the extent that disclosure “could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.” The ordinary meaning of law enforcement includes not just the investigation and prosecution of offenses already committed but also proactive steps designed to maintain security.

The portions redacted pursuant to Exemption 7(F) contain information about protection and security measures used to protect federal buildings and personnel. Specifically, the information redacted includes vulnerabilities and security measures of Federal buildings and, if released, could enable anyone, including terrorists, to more easily plan operations that would target these facilities. Without question, uncontrolled release or access to this information by an unauthorized person could endanger the life or physical safety of NA-SV’s Response Teams and employees as well as the general public.

Pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.7(b)(2), I am the individual responsible for the withholding of information pursuant to Exemption 7F of the FOIA.

You may appeal our withholding of information pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.8(a). 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, U.S. 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. Please clearly mark both the envelope and the letter “Freedom of Information Appeal.” You may also submit your appeal by e-mail 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 also contact NNSA’s FOIA Public Liaison, Pamela Arias-Ortega, Office of the General Counsel, at 1-866-747-5994, or by mail at 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 is 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 fees chargeable to you for processing your request. If you have questions concerning the processing of your request, please contact me by email donna.delrio@nnsa.doe.gov, or write to the address above and reference Control Number FOIA 20-00168-DD.

Sincerely,

Christina H. Hamblen
FOIA Officer

Enclosures