



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



December 8, 2020

Tom Clements
Savannah River Site Watch
1112 Florence Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
tomclements329@cs.com

RECEIPT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Dear Mr. Clements:

This letter acknowledges the receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated November 19, 2020 for a copy of the following:

- “1. Any current contracts between the National Nuclear Security Administration and WesDyne International LLC and/or Westinghouse Government Services LLC or any other private entity concerning manufacture of Tritium-Producing Burnable Absorber Rods for NNSA.
2. Any reports in 2018, 2019 or 2020 produced for NNSA by WesDyne International and/or Westinghouse Government Services or other contractor about the status of TPBAR production at the facility in Columbia, South Carolina.”

Your request was received in this office on December 07, 2020.

It is the practice of the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Office of the General Counsel, in accordance with the Departmental policy, to process FOIA requests in the approximate order of the date received by this office. A number of requests received prior to yours are pending, and your request will be processed in turn. We will make every effort to respond to your request as quickly as possible. Although we are committed to responding to your request in a timely manner, we estimate that we will not be able to respond to your request in 20 work days. We need more time to complete the search of facilities geographically separated from this office, review the record(s) for release, and prepare the response to you, as some requests, depending upon the volume of records, the complexity of the search, and/or the sensitivity of the subject matter, require additional time to complete. Reformulating or otherwise narrowing the scope of your request may result in a quicker processing time.

Due to the current events surrounding COVID-19, the agency is working with an extremely limited staff. Field offices, laboratories, and other program offices are performing mission critical work on an extremely reduced workforce. Furthermore, many of our records are located off site and require in person handling. Therefore, our FOIA process will be severely delayed

and you may experience a longer delay in the processing of your request. We thank you for your patience during these unprecedented times.

With respect to your request for a fee waiver, pursuant to 10 CFR § 1004.9 (a)(6), fees are not charged where they would amount to \$15.00 or less. We have not determined, at this time, the costs of processing your request; however, your request for a waiver will be considered if it is later determined that costs would exceed \$15.00.

If you have questions concerning the processing of your request, please contact me by e-mail at donna.delrio@nnsa.doe.gov, or write to the address above. Please reference Control Number FOIA 21-00055-DD in your communication.

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 20704, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

Donna Del Rio
Government Information Specialist