



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



September 25, 2020

Tom Clements  
Director, Savannah River Site Watch  
1112 Florence Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

## RECEIPT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Dear Mr. Clements:

This letter acknowledges the receipt of your July 30, 2020, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for:

“Any documents, analyses or memos prepared by the National Nuclear Security Administration, including the Office of Materials Management, for moving the ARIES plutonium oxide production technology from Los Alamos to the Savannah River Site and locating such technology at SRS. Any "terms of reference" or request for preparation of such documents requested above”.

Your request was transferred to our office on September 21, 2020 from the Department of Energy (DOE) FOIA Officer. It is the practice of the National Nuclear Security Administration, in accordance with Departmental policy, to process FOIA requests in the approximate order of the date received by this office. Your request is out for a search for responsive records. 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. With respect to your request for a waiver of fees, 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. Please note that for fee purposes, “unusual circumstances” as defined in the Open Government Act of 2007 occur, as there is a need to search for or collect records from facilities geographically separated from this office. We estimate that we will not be able to provide responsive records in 20 working days, as we need more time to complete the search, review the record(s) for release, and prepare the response to you, as some requests, depending on the volume of records, the complexity of the search, and/or the sensitivity of the subject matter, require additional time to complete.

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.

If you have questions concerning the processing of this request, please contact me by email at [Roberto.Marquez@NNSA.Doe.Gov](mailto:Roberto.Marquez@NNSA.Doe.Gov), or write to the address above. Please reference Control Number FOIA 20-00244-R.

Sincerely,

*R. Marquez*

Roberto Marquez  
Government Information Specialist