

Essential Information
P.O. Box 19405
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-387-8030

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT REQUEST

September 21, 1992

Mr. Donnie Grimsley
Freedom of Information Unit
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

FOIA-92-473
Rec'd 9-23-92

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, I hereby request a copy of all reports, studies, agency records and any other documents in possession of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the detection and monitoring of radioactivity in the people and the environment of the following Alaskan villages: Point Hope, Kivalina, Kotzebue, Noatak, Kiana, Pt. Lay, King Island, Wales, Inalik, Teller, Brevig Mission, Shishmaref, Deering, Buckland, and Nome. I also request the locations and contents of all nuclear waste sites in the state of Alaska and the surrounding waters.

I am a researcher for Essential Information, a nonprofit organization. Essential Information intends to use the information as the basis for an article that will be widely distributed and will meaningfully contribute to the public's knowledge and understanding about the government's monitoring of radiation in human beings. I therefore request that you waive search and duplication fees.

This request qualifies for a waiver of duplication fees because disclosure of the information in the request documents is in the public interest as it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government. See 5 U.S.C. Section 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). Should you decline to waive or reduce all duplication fees, we are prepared to pay normal reproduction costs if I decide to copy the records produced. Our willingness to pay such fees is subject to our rights to appeal and litigate the fee waiver question. I further ask that if you decline to waive duplication fee that you set forth your specific reasons for doing so in writing. If you deny this request for a waiver of search and duplication fees, please contact me before proceeding with your response to my inquiry.

Essential Information publishes the *Multinational Monitor*, a monthly magazine, with over 10,000 subscribers; over 200 of these are universities and libraries which will circulate the information to their patrons. Articles published in the *Multinational Monitor* are often

reprinted or generate news stories in other publications. The *Monitor* has the ability to analyze and disseminate government information to the public at large.

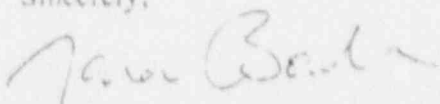
Reports by Essential Information have often been the subject of news coverage by well known media organizations including *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The Associated Press*, *United Press International*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Houston Post*, *In These Times*, *Broadcasting Magazine*, *NBC News* and *Cox Broadcasting*.

Essential Information is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt, nonprofit organization. The *Multinational Monitor* is a project of Essential Information. Essential Information and the *Multinational Monitor* have no commercial interest in the records being sought, but seek access to them only to educate the public about the life and work of an important individual.

If you regard any of these documents as exempt from the FOIA's disclosure requirements, I request that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. In this connection I note that you are required under the FOIA to release any reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of documents containing information you regard as exempt. Section 522(b). To permit an intelligent, informed decision whether or not to file an administrative appeal of any denial decision, you are also requested to describe withheld records (or portions thereof) and explain the logical and factual basis for exemption claims. See *Mead Data Central, Inc. v. Department of the Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 251 (D.C. Cir., 1977).

In order to expedite the release of the listed documents, I request that you disclosed them on an interim basis as they become available to you, without waiting until all the documents have been assembled. If you have any questions that I might be able to answer regarding the identity of the records, their location, or the scope of the request, please call me at the number listed above. I look forward to receiving your response within the ten-day statutory time period.

Sincerely,



Jaron Bourke
Staff Researcher