June 28, 1994

MEMO TO: COLONEL CLAUD BAILEY
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FROM: LORI AZIM, DOE, 202-586-5319 Lori

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR LEAVITT RESPONSE

Attached please find a memo from Phil Caplan to Tara and Gordon on correspondence (also attached) from Governor Leavitt, Utah, concerning the Dugway Proving Ground tests. Phil has requested that DOD and DOE jointly write a response for President Clinton to send to Governor Leavitt.

I have also given these materials to DOE's Glenn Podonsky in order to work on a joint response with you. You may reach him at 301-903-3777.

We should get this to Phil as soon as possible.

Thanks! If you have any questions, feel free to call me at the above telephone number. Or call Phil Caplan, at 202-456-2572.

cc: Gordon Soper, DOD
Phil Caplan, WH
Peter Brush, DOE

Called 6/17

Note to Ellyn:

Per Tara's attached request I called Phil Caplan on Wednesday 6/15 to discuss this item. I reminded him that the Executive Order does cover the 6 Dugway tests and that these would therefore be under the purview of the Committee.

I told him that I felt that the remainder of the data should be the responsibility of the Army to declassify. He asked that we get in touch with Gordon Soper and jointly develop a letter for the President to send to the Governor covering these points.

I was unable to contact Soper and would like you to do this. Thanks.

Peter

Put together what we know on Red Cavalry tests

Leslie

CIC did scara - we sent it to Bailly. We have a set of it downstairs. Virginia is not person

Do we have anything that's classified? And'll find out for me.

What's the connection w/ Hamlet

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 13, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR TARA O'TOOLE
GORDON SOPER

FROM: PHIL CAPLAN

SUBJECT: Governor Leavitt's Dugway Proving Ground request

The President has received the attached letter from Governor Leavitt of Utah, regarding the Dugway Proving Ground tests. I am not sure whether DOE or DOD should respond to the Governor's request or whether the Advisory Committee is already looking at this.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions as to whom should handle the issue.

Thank you.

Peter - Please call Phil

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114-0601

OLENE S. WALKER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 20, 1994

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Clinton:

Recent disclosures have indicated that a series of radioactive tests occurred at the Dugway Proving Ground commencing in the late 1940s. Initially six tests were identified but recently a Freedom of Information Act request has suggested that over 600 tests may have occurred. Specific information is now available on a total of thirty-three tests. For years, Utahns have known of open air testing of chemical and biological agents at Dugway Proving Grounds. It is disturbing to now discover that radiological testing occurring during the same time frame was not publicly disclosed. With Utah's experience dealing with the open air tests at the Nevada Test Site, this revelation at Dugway again engenders distrust of the federal government for its failure to protect the citizens of the State of Utah.

I join with others in requesting a full disclosure of the radiological testing program at Dugway Proving Ground. Information relating to the specific radionuclides used in the tests, areas where testing occurred on Dugway, any known contaminated areas on Dugway as a result of the testing, and the potential for exposure to Dugway workers and the surrounding environment and population should be disclosed. It is imperative that this information be provided in a timely manner to ensure the citizens of Utah that the Department of the Army is acting in a responsible manner to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

MOL/DRN/doc

cc: Suzanne Winters, State Science Advisor
Dianne Nielson, Executive Director, UDEQ
Col. James R. King, Commanding Officer, Dugway Proving Grounds
Bob Doda, NRC Region IV
Utah Congressional delegation

Faxed Col Bailey
6-28-94

Gave action to Glenn
Podensky 6-28-94

Called Gordon
6-28 he will call
me back

Send to Col. Bailey
703602-1365
FAX -0046

June 13, 1994

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GORDON SOPER

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cc: Suzanne Winters, State Science Advisor
Dianne Nielson, Executive Director, UDEQ
Col. James R. King, Commanding Officer, Dugway Proving Grounds
Bob Doda, NRC Region IV
Utah Congressional delegation

Gordon K. Soper
Principal Deputy
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy)
3E1074 (703) 697-5161

August 22, 1994

MEMO FOR: Mr. Phil Caplan

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Letter to Governor Michael O. Leavitt of Utah Concerning Radiological Warfare Testing at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah

Phil:

I called last week and left a message on your voice mail regarding this issue. I'm sending you our proposed response. It is fairly detailed and the President may not want to discuss radioactive decay theory with the Governor. **BUT** I believe it's an important element of the response. Do whatever editing you want to make it more "Presidential". Also we'd be glad to put it in final form if you want us to do that as well.

Over to you.

Regards.

Gordon

cf: Tara O'Toole, DOE

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY
84114-0601

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT
GOVERNOR

OLENE S. WALKER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 20, 1994

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The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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Dianne Nielson, Executive Director, UDEQ
Col. James R. King, Commanding Officer, Dugway Proving Grounds
Bob Doda, NRC Region IV
Utah Congressional delegation

Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Governor of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-0601

Dear Governor Leavitt:

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 1994 regarding the radioactive tests conducted at Dugway Proving Ground.

In early January 1994, I established a Human Radiation Interagency Working Group composed of the heads of eight cabinet-level departments and agencies to oversee and coordinate the Federal government's efforts to identify the nature and extent of radiation experiments conducted on human subjects. On January 15, 1994, I issued an Executive Order creating an Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments. The Advisory Committee involves experts in medicine, science, and ethics from outside the government who will provide advice and recommendations to the Interagency Working Group. In line with my initiatives and directives, Federal departments and agencies have established policies and procedures to identify, locate, and retrieve records relating to human radiation experiments.

The Departments of Defense (DoD) and Energy (DOE) believe, as you do, in the importance of providing the maximum possible disclosure to the public regarding the government's involvement in radiation exposure to human populations. To this end, both Departments are working aggressively with other members of the Human Radiation Interagency Working Group to locate all records of human radiation experiments since 1944. Included in this examination are experiments involving intentional radioactive environmental releases such as those conducted at Dugway Proving Ground (DPG). Since January 1994 when Secretaries Aspin and O'Leary announced their Departments' commitment to this effort, the DoD and DOE have established the highest reporting standards regarding this issue. These standards will be maintained as the Departments continue to examine their involvement in this matter over the last 50 years.

The Department of Defense shares your interest in learning all it can about the experiments conducted at DPG. In conjunction with the Department of Energy, it has been aggressively searching for and declassifying records related to Dugway. The attached summary identifies recently declassified records of radiological warfare (RW) tests conducted at DPG on which we currently have information. The objective of these tests was to support the development of a radiological warfare dispersal device. The DoD records search for other experiments is on-going and includes an investigation of all tests conducted at DPG subsequent to 1952.

In regard to your concerns relating to the risks to the surrounding environment and human population, personnel from the US. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency conducted a study at Dugway Proving Ground in 1987 to determine the possible presence of hazards due to historic radiation testing. Another study was conducted by the Nuclear Science Officer from Headquarters, US. Army Materiel Command in July 1989. The results of these studies showed no residual low-level radioactive contamination resulting from prior tests.

According to radiation experts, the half-life of radioactive isotope tantalum 182 is 115 days or 0.31 years. A half-life refers to the time which is required for a radioactive substance to lose 50 percent of its activity by decay. With this in mind, the level of radioactivity today resulting from these tests is, or course, completely negligible, and is undetectable with the most sensitive radiation counting instruments.

The search for and subsequent disclosure of historic test documents continues at Dugway Proving Ground, and officials there are making all efforts to complete this process in a timely manner.

The DoD and DOE believe as I do that it is of vital importance to provide the maximum possible disclosure to the public regarding the American government's involvement in human radiation experimentation and to reaffirm our commitment to the protection of human subjects in research. Please be assured that every attempt will be made to identify all government - sponsored human radiation experiments that were conducted at Dugway. I am committed to a full accounting in this matter.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your support in this important endeavor.

Attachment
as stated

SUMMARY OF RADIOLOGICAL WARFARE TESTING AT DUGWAY PROVING GROUNDS 1949-1952

22 October 1949
First RW Munition Test
Test Objective: A 2,000 lb radiological bomb with a total activity of 260 curies of Ta-182 was exploded to study how a radiological contaminant spreads when dispersed by a bomb.

30 November 1949
Field Test 276
Second RW Munition Test
Test Objective: A 2,000 lb radiological bomb with a total of 1,506 curies of Ta-182 in the munition was exploded to study how radiological contaminant spreads when dispersed by a bomb.

The Test Directive states the date as August 1950
Field Test 291
Gross Decontamination Studies on Radioactive Tantalum Dispersed by A Single Radiological Bomb
The radiological agent used in this test was the residue from the 30 November 1949 test. No new contaminant was used. The objective of this test was to determine the practicability of several proposed methods for gross decontamination of areas (area-wide or paths wide enough for the passage of troops) which have been radiologically decontaminated and to test the feasibility of decontamination of construction equipment used in contaminated areas.

26 July 1950
31 August 1950
1 September 1950
Field Test 311
Test of the Effect of Various Types of Construction on the Intensity Field Produced by a Radioactive Tantalum Source
Test Objective: These tests were conducted to determine the effectiveness of several types of common constructions as a shield to radiation exposure from a point source of radioactive tantalum-182.

4 August 1950
Field Test 287
Airburst Test of a Single 2,000 lb Radiological Bomb E59R1, Filled With Radioactive Tantalum Particles
Test Objective: The objective of this test was to determine the effect of the type of explosive used in the 2,000 lb radiological bomb, E59R1, on the dispersion of radioactive tantalum particles over large areas to assess the radiation field produced, the airborne cloud generated, and the effect of weathering on the contamination. The radiological material, Ta-182, was activated to a level of 480 curies.

6 August 1950
Field Test 288
Drop Test of a Single 2,000 lb Radiological Bomb E59R2, Filled With Radioactive Tantalum Particles
Test Objective: The objective of this test was to determine the effect of the type of explosive used in the 2,000 lb radiological bomb, E59R1, on the dispersion of radioactive tantalum particles over large areas, to assess the radiation field produced, the airborne cloud generated, and the effect of weathering on the contamination. The radiological material, Ta-182, was activated to a level of 480 curies. The test was intended to be an airburst, however, due to mechanical malfunction the bomb exploded on impact.

11 August 1950
Ficld Test 293
Static Test of Four Shaped-Charge Sections of Radiological Bomb, E59, Filled with Radioactive Tantalum Particles
Test Objective: The objective of the test was to determine the effect of shaping the explosive charge used in the radiological bomb, E59, on the dispersion of radioactive tantalum particles and to assess the radiation field produced. The four bomb sections were activated to a level of 26 curies each.

5 September 1950
Field Test 289
Airburst Test of a Single Radiological Bomb, E65, Filled With Radioactive Tantalum Particles
Test Objective: The objective of the test was to determine the effect of the type of explosive used in the radiological bomb, E65, on the dispersion of radioactive tantalum particles and to assess the radiation field produced. The 2,000 lb bomb was activated to a level of 930 curies.

7 September 1950
Field Test 290
Airburst Test of a Single 2,000 lb Radiological Bomb, E65R2, Filled With Radioactive Tantalum Particles
Test Objective: The object of this test was to determine the effect of the type of explosive used in the E65R2 radiological bomb on the dispersion of radioactive tantalum particles over large areas, to assess the radiation field produced, the airborne cloud generated, the effect of weathering on contamination, and the effect of a water-cooled jacket for the bomb in relation to the factors mentioned.

13 September 1950
Field Test 292
Static Tests of Experimental Radiological Dust Generators, E66R2 and E66R3, Filled With Radioactive Tantalum Oxide, Radioactive Tantalum Chloride, and Radioactive Agent RA
Test Objective: The objective of this test was to determine the feasibility of dispersing, as ground contamination over a small area, radioactive tantalum oxide particles, radioactive tantalum chloride dust, and radioactive agent RA, by means of thermal generation; and to assess the radiation field produced and the airborne cloud generated. The average activity for this test was 1.1 curies per generator.

29 May 1951
Field Test 619
Static Test of Four Full-Diameter Sectional Munitions, E65 Type, Filled With Compressed Radioactive Tantalum Dust Pellets
Test Objective: To determine the effect of shaping the explosive charge of the radiological bomb, E65, on the dispersion of radioactive tantalum dust pellets.

3-4 November 1951
Field Test 620
Airburst Test of Nine Spherical Radiological Munitions, E78R2 and E78R3, Aerial Pellet Disseminator Filled With a Radioactive Agent, and Bursting At Varying Altitudes
Test Objective: The objective of this test was to establish the "area of responsibility" of two types of individual munitions, E78R2 and E78R3, filled with radioactive dust pellets when airburst at varying altitudes and to assess the radiation field produced. The four munitions filled with active radiological material were activated to levels between 7.4 and 16.8 curies each.

7 Nov 1951
Field Test 623
Airburst Test of Two, 1,000 lb Radiological Bombs, E-83, Filled With Compressed Radioactive Tantalum Dust Pellets
Test Objective: The objective of this test was to determine the effect of varying the explosive and shaping the charge using the E83 radiological bomb on the range and uniformity of dispersion of the agent pellets of compressed radioactive tantalum dust. The bomb was activated to a level of 612 curies.

8 Nov 1951
Field Test 624
Airburst Test of Two, 1,000 lb Radiological Bombs, E-83, Filled With Compressed Radioactive Tantalum Dust Pellets
Test Objective: The same as Field Test 623. The bomb was activated to a level of 756 curies.

7-8 November 1951
Field Test DPG RW 1-52
Static Test of Four Full-Diameter Sectional Munitions, E83 Type, Filled With Compressed Radioactive Tantalum Dust Pellets
Test Objective: The objective of this test was to determine the effect of shaping the explosive charge of the modified radiological bomb, E83 type, on the dispersion of compressed pellets of radioactive tantalum. This test took place in conjunction with Field Tests 623 and 624 to test further modifications of the agent and explosive compartments with regard to contamination uniformity and area coverage. The total activity for each of the four bombs ranged from 275 to 403 curies.

20 May 1952
DPG RW 1-52
Static Test of Four Segments of Full-Diameter Sectional Munitions
Test Objective: The objectives of this test were to determine the effect of shaping the explosive charge of the modified radiological bomb, E83 type, on the dispersion of compressed pellets of radioactive tantalum dust and to assess the radiation fields produced. Apparent activity of the munitions ranged from 337 curies to 421 curies.

23-27 May 1952
DPG RW 2-52
Dynamic Test of Spherical Radiological Munitions
Test Objective: The objectives of this test were to assess the radiation fields produced by several E78R4 individual spherical munitions filled with radioactive agent when airburst at varying altitudes and to determine the effect of weathering on the ground contamination. The total activities of the spheres were measured to be 38.9 to 40 apparent curies.

4-10 June 1952
DPG RW 5-52
RW Decontamination and Land Reclamation Studies
Test Objectives: The objectives of this test were to investigate the range of depths to which the pellets penetrate into the soil under conditions prevailing during hot RW sphere trials during the spring of 1952; to determine the feasibility of locating individual RW pellets by means of gamma survey meter or by means of beta probe; to determine the feasibility of removing individual pellets and the time required for this operation; to obtain data on the performance of proposed land reclamation measures; and to evaluate waste collection and disposal procedures.

23 September 1952
DPG RW 1-53
Second Static Test of Full Diameter Sectional Munition
Test Objective: The objectives of this test were to determine the effect of shaping the explosive charge of one 1,000 lb radiological bomb, E83-type, on the dispersion and breakup of the agent, and to determine the extent and intensity of the field radiation produced. The four functioning munitions were activated to a level of between 336.7 and 420.7 curies.