



Texas Department of Health

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September 12, 1989

Robert J. Doda
State Agreements Officer
United States Nuclear
Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Re: Radwaste Burials in Texas

Dear Mr. ^{Doda} Doda:

This is to request NRC assistance in obtaining information relating to the existence of radioactive waste burial sites at military installations (both current and former) in the State of Texas.

Enclosed you will find a memo received by Mr. Arthur Flores which originated from the Department of the Air Force regarding radioactive waste burials on Air Force bases. Some of these bases have been identified as being in the State of Texas of which some do not exist anymore (e.g. Laredo AFB). We do have fairly good data from the burial sites at Lackland and Kelly AFB's in San Antonio but do not know if any data exists for the remainder of the military installations within the state. Incidentally, this request is not restricted to Air Force installations alone but to any other military bases which exist or have existed within the state.

Please refer any questions or responses to Mr. Art Flores at this Agency.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "DL", written over a horizontal line.

David K. Lacker, Chief
Bureau of Radiation Control

Enclosure

8911060016 891023
REG4 LIC30
42-23539-01AF PNU

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314



16 JUL 1974

TO: SG
SUBJECT: Radioactive Waste Disposal Sites

AAC	(AFLC	ATC	CINCSAC	MAC	USAFSO
ADC	AFRES	AU	CINCUSAFE	TAC	USAFSS
AFCS	AFSC	CINCPACAF	HQ COMD USAF	USAFA	

(Surgeon/Civil Engineer)

1. In the early 1950's it was common practice in the United States to bury radioactive waste. The Air Force adopted this practice and developed a technical order (TO 00-11QA-1) which specified procedures to be followed. In 1959 the general authority to bury radioactive waste was rescinded and the Air Force converted to a contractor disposal system (TO 00-11ON-2).
2. This headquarters directed an Air Force-wide survey to determine the location of these burial sites. Forty-six bases were identified as possessing radioactive burial sites (see Atch 1). This study also indicated there were no records of the exact type or quantity of radioactive material disposed of in the sites. Generally, the buried radioactive waste could be categorized into (a) electron tubes containing radionuclides (b) low level radioactive wastes generated in nuclear weapons maintenance operations, and (c) radioluminescent materials containing radium.
3. Disinterment of all radioactive burial sites is not considered necessary or practical. Removal of buried waste should only be accomplished when there is a mission essential need for the site. When the site location is disposed of as excess property, an attempt will be made to obtain a permanent easement for the burial site. If the prospective property owner is not agreeable to this condition, the site will be disinterred. The Base Civil Engineer, in conjunction with the USAF Radiological Health Laboratory, is responsible for developing disinterment procedures which are consistent with good health physics practices. Material removed will be disposed of in accordance with TO 00-11ON-2. Unless there are specific records indicating buried radioactive material was licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), no license for the disinterment process will be requested from the AEC. All disinterment actions require prior approval of this headquarters.
4. All existing burial sites will be located on Tab C-1 of the Base Master Plan and accounted for on real property records. Each site will be permanently posted with an appropriate warning sign (see Atch 2).

Appropriate Air Force directives will be revised to reflect the policy.
This letter expires on 1 July 1975 unless sooner rescinded or superseded.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Robert A. Patterson

ROBERT A. PATTERSON, Lt General, USAF, MC
Surgeon General

2 Atch

1. List of AF Burial Sites
2. Burial Site Warning Sign

Copy to: AFISC/SG
AFISC/SEL
AFISC/IGM
NGB/SG
AFMPC/SG
ARPC/SG
AFDSDC/SG
AFAFC
DMAAC
USAFSAM/EDEO
AFSC/VN

List of Air Force Bases Having Radioactive
Waste Burial Sites

Altus AFB	*Loring AFB
Andrews AFB	Lowry AFB
*Barksdale AFB	Luke AFB
Bergstrom AFB	McCoy AFB
Carswell AFB	McGuire AFB
Columbus AFB	Moody AFB
Craig AFB	Mountain Home AFB
Davis-Monthan AFB	*Nellis AFB
Eglin AFB	Patrick AFB
*Ellsworth AFB	Perrin AFB
Elmendorf AFB	*Randolph AFB
England AFB	Richards-Gebaur AFB
*Fairchild AFB	Robins AFB
George AFB	Scott AFB
Hamilton AFB	Sheppard AFB
Holloman AFB	Sundance AFB
Johuston Atoll AFB	Tinker AFB
Keesler AFB	*Travis AFB
✓ Kelly AFB	Vandenberg AFB
Kincheloe AFB	*Westover AFB
*Kirtland AFB	Whiteman AFB
*Lackland AFB	Williams AFB
Laredo AFB	Wright-Patterson AFB

*Former AEC Facilities

Atch 1

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