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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT REQUEST

FOIA-89-165

Rec'd 4-21-89

Ref from Dept. of Air Force

SAF/AADAAF
Washington, DC 20330-1000

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Freedom of Information Monitor:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 5 U.S.C. §552, I hereby request information concerning the radioactive waste spill at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Building 4060 in September 1986, subsequent information concerning the attempted cover-up, the clean-up actions, exposure to personnel, the Senatorial hearings, and pertinent historical information.

I also request that I be informed beforehand if the search and reproduction cost will exceed \$20.00. Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

Derek O. Cornette

Derek O. Cornette

/jss

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PDR FOIA
CORNETT89-165 PDR

87-1365



REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

MAY 11 1983

Docket No. 030-28641
License No. 42-23539-01AF
EA 88-116Col. Bryant D. Mauk
Chairman, USAF Radioisotope Committee
HQUSAF/SGP
Bolling Air Force Base
Washington, D.C. 20332

Dear Col. Mauk:

On September 18, 1986, an incident occurred that resulted in significant americium-241 contamination inside a radioactive waste storage building at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. On September 26, 1986, the NRC first became aware of the event when a member of the USAF Radioisotope Committee informed the NRC that a "minor" spill had occurred at WPAFB. On November 7, 1986, the USAF made official written notification of the incident to the NRC.

In a memorandum dated January 29, 1988, Colonel Stephen F. Kollar, Commander, WPAFB, stated that he had recently become aware that an Airman Performance Report written on SMSgt Wendell I. Wingo may have been rendered with the intent to retaliate against him for his cooperation with base and congressional investigations of that americium-241 contamination event. He further stated that he was aware of the circumstances and personalities involved in this matter and believed that the subject report was not rendered fairly as defined by AFR 39-62, paragraph 3-1a(6) and had unjustly jeopardized SMSgt Wingo's career. The Airman Personnel Records Review Board supported Colonel Kollar's conclusion and directed the subject Airman Performance Report be destroyed.

The NRC is concerned that a violation of the employee protection provisions set forth in 10 CFR 30.7(a) may have occurred and that the actions taken against the individual may have had a chilling effect on other civilian and military employees who might wish to raise safety issues.

Therefore, you are requested to provide this office, within 30 days of the date of this letter, a response which:

- A. Provides the basis for the above actions against SMSgt Wingo and includes copies of all documents supporting the subject Airman Performance Report, the appeal of that report, and the decisions made regarding that appeal by Colonel Kollar and the Airman Personnel Records Review Board as well as any investigation report concerning this matter.

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED~~8945254137 (299)~~

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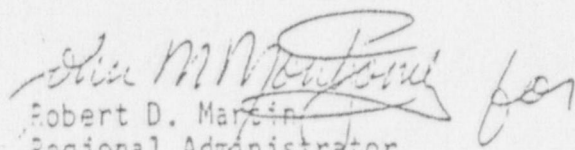
- B. Describes actions that have been taken or will be taken to: (1) prevent the recurrence of discriminatory actions for raising safety issues; (2) determine the chilling effect this event may have had on the willingness of other personnel at WPAFB to bring forward safety concerns; and (3) mitigate any existing chilling effect.

After reviewing your response, the NRC will determine whether enforcement action is necessary at this time to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The response requested by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-511.

Sincerely,


Robert D. Martin
Regional Administrator

cc:
A. B. Davis, RIII