

6 May '22

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
US Department of Energy
Attn: Executive Director of Operations
Daniel H. Dorman
Washington DC ~~20555~~ 20555-0001

Regarding: Snap ID Satellite information/Booklet

I am interested in this particular satellite for understanding how it work, provided it is not classified TOP SECRET or otherwise.

Please identify the publication found in public library or within your library of programs involving nuclear powered satellites. I think it would be fortuitous to learn about these platforms. I know basically the following:

9 to 12 microwave probes

180000 tons payload launched in 1965 at
Vandenberg AFB California.

nuclear powered for more than 40000 year life.

Your informative response is sought for my learning about satellites of this genre. Thank you in advance for your timely answer.

Sincerely/
Douglas M Plank SR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 23, 2022

NRC-2022-000194

Mr. Douglas M. Plante, Sr.

(b)(6)

Dear Douglas Plante:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated May 6, 2022, on June 23, 2022.¹

If we have read your handwritten letter correctly, your request states the following:

RE: SNAP-10 satellite information/booklet. I am interested in this particular satellite for understanding how it works; provided it is not classified Top Secret or otherwise. Please identify the publication found in public library or within your library or programs involving nuclear-powered satellites. I think it would be fantastic to learn about these platforms. I know basically the following: 9-12 microwave probes; 180,000 tons payload launched in 1965 at Vandenberg AFB, California; and nuclear powered for more than [a] 40,000 year life.

The NRC was created as an independent agency by the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, which abolished the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and moved the AEC's regulatory function to NRC. The NRC's scope of responsibility includes regulation of commercial nuclear power reactors, nonpower research, test, and training reactors, fuel cycle facilities, medical, academic, and industrial uses of nuclear materials, and the transport, storage, and disposal of nuclear materials and waste. At the same time, the responsibility for the promotion of nuclear power was vested in (what became) the Department of Energy (DOE). Since then, the National Laboratories fall under the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration, according to <https://www.energy.gov/national-laboratories>

Upon receipt of your request, we performed a brief internet search and found this information on Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SNAP-10A>. It seems to confirm that any records, including a booklet, about the SNAP-10 satellite that launched from Vandenberg AFB in 1965, would be maintained by DOE.

While your letter is also addressed to DOE, we wanted to be sure that DOE's FOIA Office has received it. We have forwarded it to Alexander Morris, the DOE Departmental FOIA Officer.

¹ Due to NRC staff working hybrid schedules (some days in the office and some days remote), your letter addressed to, and mailed through the U.S. Postal Service, Dan Dorman, our Executive Director for Operations, was delivered to the FOIA Office today.

Plante, D.

- 2 -

We are aware that DOE's FOIA program is decentralized; he will ensure that your request is received by the proper office. Since your request is misdirected to the NRC, we are administratively closing our file on this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Blaney /s/

Stephanie A. Blaney
FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer