

From: [Farrell, Timothy \(CONTR\)](#)
To: [Phil Rutherford](#); [Canady, Jennifer \(CONTR\)](#)
Cc: [Greenberg, Craig \(CONTR\)](#); [Secretary](#); [Morris, Alexander](#); [Hayes, Richard](#); [Addison, Lela \(CONTR\)](#); [Williams, Tavis \(CONTR\)](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] HQ-2024-01615-F; FOIA request status
Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 5:03:43 AM

Dear Mr. Rutherford:

I am in receipt of your email and have forwarded it to my Team for review. We are currently working on your request for the second letter. As soon as I learn the status of the search, I will let you know. Thank you for your patience.

Tim Farrell

FOIA Analyst

From: Phil Rutherford <email@philrutherford.com>
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 2:34 PM
To: Canady, Jennifer (CONTR) <jennifer.canady@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Farrell, Timothy (CONTR) <timothy.farrell@hq.doe.gov>; Greenberg, Craig (CONTR) <craig.greenberg@hq.doe.gov>; Secretary <the.secretary@hq.doe.gov>; Morris, Alexander <alexander.morris@hq.doe.gov>; Hayes, Richard <richard.hayes@hq.doe.gov>; Addison, Lela (CONTR) <lela.addison@hq.doe.gov>; Williams, Tavis (CONTR) <tavis.williams@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HQ-2024-01615-F; FOIA request status

Dear Ms. Canady,

Happy New Year.

I understand if my email below got lost in the holiday season shuffle.

Please review my request to provide the requested Feinstein/Richardson communications related to Rocketdyne cleanup standards.

Thank you for your assistance.

Phil

[Phil Rutherford Consulting](#)

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From: Phil Rutherford <email@philrutherford.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 8:20 PM
To: 'Canady, Jennifer (CONTR)' <jennifer.canady@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: HQ-2024-01615-F; FOIA request status

Dear Ms. Canady,

Thank you for your reply and your later follow-up email including Senator Feinstein's and Secretary Richardson's letters. I was able to save copies of both these letters, but unfortunately your later email disappeared from my inbox before I could save the

official response letter from Mr. Morris. I would appreciate if you could resend that letter. Thank you.

If you would look at the original FOIA request (attached) it discusses “Senator Seeks Tougher Cleanup Standards at Rocketdyne Lab.” This is the subject of the first half of the LA Times May 8, 1999, article by Gary Polakovic. The full story is at <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1999-may-08-me-35098-story.html>. The second half of the article discusses a separate issue of funding for a community health study. The Senator’s and Secretary’s letters that you provided relates to the health study funding issue, and do not mention cleanup standards at all. My interest is their communications related to cleanup standards. I suspect that Senator Feinstein wrote a second letter on May 5, 1999, focused on the subject of cleanup standards as that was the title and initial focus of the LA Times article. Could you please provide that letter from the Senator and Secretary Richardson’s response.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Phil Rutherford

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email@philrutherford.com

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From: Canady, Jennifer (CONTR) <jennifer.canady@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:39 PM
To: Phil Rutherford <email@philrutherford.com>; Farrell, Timothy (CONTR) <timothy.farrell@hq.doe.gov>; Greenberg, Craig (CONTR) <craig.greenberg@hq.doe.gov>; Secretary <the.secretary@hq.doe.gov>; Morris, Alexander <alexander.morris@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Hayes, Richard <richard.hayes@hq.doe.gov>; Addison, Lela (CONTR) <lela.addison@hq.doe.gov>; Williams, Tavis (CONTR) <tavis.williams@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: HQ-2024-01615-F; FOIA request status

Good evening Mr. Rutherford,

I wanted to reach out and let you know that our office received approval for release. You will receive a separate email shortly if you have any issues, please let me know.

Jennifer Canady

Senior FOIA Analyst – Team Lead CTR

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Public Information, MA

From: Phil Rutherford <email@philrutherford.com>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 1:08 PM
To: Farrell, Timothy (CONTR) <timothy.farrell@hq.doe.gov>; Greenberg, Craig (CONTR) <craig.greenberg@hq.doe.gov>; Secretary <the.secretary@hq.doe.gov>

Morris, Alexander <alexander.morris@hq.doe.gov>

Cc: Hayes, Richard <richard.hayes@hq.doe.gov>; Canady, Jennifer (CONTR) <jennifer.canady@hq.doe.gov>; Addison, Lela (CONTR) <lela.addison@hq.doe.gov>; Williams, Tavis (CONTR) <tavis.williams@hq.doe.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: HQ-2024-01615-F; FOIA request status

I do not think the new administration will look to kindly at the failure to respond to this simple FOIA request.

Secretary Granholm will not care as she will be out of a job. However, others may want to reconsider, as these emails will continue after January 20.

Sincerely,

[Phil Rutherford Consulting](#)

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From: Phil Rutherford <email@philrutherford.com>

Sent: Sunday, November 3, 2024 6:51 PM

To: 'Farrell, Timothy (CONTR)' <timothy.farrell@hq.doe.gov>; 'Greenberg, Craig (CONTR)' <craig.greenberg@hq.doe.gov>; The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov; 'Morris, Alexander' <alexander.morris@hq.doe.gov>

Cc: 'Hayes, Richard' <richard.hayes@hq.doe.gov>; 'Canady, Jennifer (CONTR)' <jennifer.canady@hq.doe.gov>; 'Addison, Lela (CONTR)' <lela.addison@hq.doe.gov>; 'Williams, Tavis (CONTR)' <tavis.williams@hq.doe.gov>

Subject: HQ-2024-01615-F; FOIA request status

Importance: High

Dear DOE FOIA Office Staff and Secretary Granholm,

On April 2 and 5, 2024, I submitted a FOIA request for May 1999 letters between Senator Feinstein and Secretary Richardson. See attached emails.

On May 13, 2024. Ms. Lela Addison of your office indicated that response to FOIA HQ-2024-01615-F was in the final review stage and should be emailed to me *“by the end of this week.”* See attached email.

On July 22, 2024, Mr. Craig Greenberg of your office indicated that response to FOIA HQ-2024-01615-F would be sent *“either later this week or early next week.”* See attached email.

On August 29, 2024. Mr. Timothy Farrell of your office indicated that response to FOIA HQ-2024-01615-F was *“in the final review stage.”* He further stated that *“modifications to redactions”* were identified requiring additional review. See attached email.

At this point communication from the FOIA Office became confusing.

On August 29, 2024, the same day as the email from Mr. Timothy Farrell, Mr. Craig Greenberg also emailed to say,

“The redactions on the responsive records for your request have completed almost all of the necessary review and are being prepared for the final release approval. We hope to have that approval finalized within the next couple of weeks to be able to send you a final response letter with responsive records.” See attached email.

Note that the text does not refer to a specific FOIA number. At the time, I had not realized that the subject line of the email referred to a different FOIA request, related to falsification of waste shipping records, namely FOIA HQ-2024-01160-F. I assumed at the time that Mr. Greenberg’s response related to FOIA HQ-2024-01615-F. Is this correct? Or was it really related to FOIA HQ-2024-01160-F? Either way I still have not received a response to either FOIAs.

On October 20, 2024, I again replied to Mr. Greenberg’s August 29, 2024, mis-titled email, and inquired as to the status of FOIA HQ-2024-01615-F. See attached email. Mr. Greenberg and Mr. Farrell ignored my inquiry, and I have yet to receive any response.

This FOIA request HQ-2024-01615-F is relatively simple, compared to FOIA request HQ-2024-01160-F. However, after seven months of apologies and empty promises, I have yet to see two simple letters that were the FOIA request. So, my question to you Secretary Granholm (assuming that your personal staff have forwarded this email on to you), does the performance of your FOIA Office fill you with pride or with shame? Will I receive another apology or another empty promise or neither?

Sincerely,

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