

Freedom of Information Act Request

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Activities at Dugway Proving Ground (1947–1953)

Recipient:

FOIA Officer

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

(Successor agency to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey)

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request — U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Activities at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah (1948)

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552), I respectfully request copies of any records held by your agency relating to activities conducted by the **U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey at Dugway Proving Ground in Tooele County, Utah**, between **January 1, 1947 and December 31, 1953**.

Specifically, I am seeking records that document, reference, or describe **surveys conducted at Dugway Proving Ground in connection with underground explosion testing**. Contemporary press coverage frequently referred to this testing as the “**underground explosion test program**.”

Records of Interest

Records requested include, but are not limited to:

- Survey reports
- Field notes
- Maps, plats, diagrams, benchmarks, or geodetic control data
- Correspondence with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Dugway Proving Ground personnel
- Internal memoranda
- Project summaries or mission descriptions
- Records describing the **purpose, scope, duration, or intended permanence** of surveyed target areas or infrastructure

- Documentation relating to **site evaluation, subsurface characterization, or long-term infrastructure planning** at Dugway Proving Ground

Context for the Request

This request is informed by contemporaneous reporting. An article published in **The Sun-Advocate (Price, Utah) on May 20, 1948 (page 2)** reports that during underground explosion testing at Dugway Proving Ground, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey conducted **surveys of target areas**.

Notably, the article describes this activity as occurring specifically at Dugway rather than at other contemporaneous test locations referenced in related reporting. A copy of the referenced article was attached to assist in identifying responsive records.

Purpose of the Request

The records requested are sought for **historical and archival research purposes**. This request is **non-commercial in nature**, and the information obtained will be used to better understand **mid-twentieth-century federal scientific and engineering activities associated with Dugway Proving Ground**.

Additional Request Details

If any portion of this request is denied, please provide the **specific FOIA exemption or exemptions relied upon** and release all **reasonably segregable non-exempt material**.

If the requested records have been **transferred to another agency, archive, or successor organization**, I would appreciate guidance regarding where those records may now reside.

I am willing to receive records in **electronic format** whenever available. If fees are expected to exceed a reasonable amount, please notify me in advance.

Sincerely,
Justin Long