



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

March 2, 2026

Justin Long
[REDACTED]

Re: FOIA Request: DOC-NOAA-2026-001043

Dear Mr. Long:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by our office on 1/23/2026, in which you requested:

“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, Tooele County, Utah, between January 1, 1947 and December 31, 1952.

Specifically, I am seeking records that document, reference, or describe surveys conducted at Dugway Proving Ground in connection with underground explosion testing. This testing was frequently referred to in contemporaneous press coverage as the “underground explosion test program.” Records of interest 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*
- *Any documentation related to site evaluation, subsurface characterization, or long term infrastructure planning at Dugway Proving Ground*

This request is informed by contemporaneous public reporting. An article published in The Sun-Advocate (Price, Utah), Thursday, May 20, 1948, page 2, reports that during underground explosion testing at Dugway Proving Ground, ‘the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey is conducting surveys of target areas.’ Notably, this activity is described specifically at Dugway and not at other contemporaneous test locations referenced in related reporting...

Pursuant to the Other Fee Category provisions of the FOIA and applicable regulations (see 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A) and 15 C.F.R. § 4.11(d)(3)), you are entitled to 100 pages of responsive records at no cost.

We have identified responsive records and are providing you with 100 pages as a sampling of the responsive material. You are granted full access to these records.

Please note that any additional records beyond the initial 100 pages are subject to processing fees. If you would like to receive the remaining responsive records, please let us know and we will provide a fee estimate.



Alternatively, you may choose to narrow the scope of your request in order to reduce potential fees. If you wish to do so, please contact the FOIA office identified below, and we will be happy to work with you to more efficiently process the remaining records.

Your request will remain on hold pending your response. If we do not hear from you by April 1, 2026, your request will be closed.

You have the right to file an administrative appeal if you are not satisfied with our response to your FOIA request. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why you believe the FOIA response was not satisfactory. An appeal based on documents in this release must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter at the following address:

Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation, and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of General Counsel
Room 5896
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to FOIAAppeals@doc.gov.

For your appeal to be complete, it must include the following items:

- a copy of the original request,
- our response to your request,
- a statement explaining why the withheld records should be made available, and why the denial of the records was in error.
- "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" must appear on your appeal letter. It should also be written on your envelope, or e-mail subject line.

FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box or Office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely. FOIA grants requesters the right to challenge an agency's final action in federal court. Before doing so, an adjudication of an administrative appeal is ordinarily required.

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), an office created within the National Archives and Records Administration, offers free mediation services to FOIA requesters. They may be contacted in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Phone: 301-837-1996
Fax: 301-837-0348
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448



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If you have questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Nathan Littlejohn at nathan.littlejohn@noaa.gov, Ashley Hettler at ashley.hettler@noaa.gov, or the NOAA FOIA Public Liaison Tony LaVoi 843-834-3516.

Sincerely,

