

Tom



**Department of Energy**  
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

**AUG 26 1997**

Mrs. Marilyn Gay  
1990 Ginger Street  
Oxnard, California 93030

Dear Mrs. Gay:

This is in regard to your telephone conversation with me on August 14, 1997, and your request for information about your husband, Mr. Melvin R. Gay, and his participation as a Holmes and Narver employee at Enewetak from April 1953 until July 1956 as a Inventory Control Supervisor and later as a Radio Communications Technician from January 1960 until August 1962.

Atmospheric nuclear testing ceased in the Marshall Islands after 1958 so that the potential for exposure to radiation in the latter period would have been minimal. You have asked for some background information on your deceased husband's participation, his recorded dose data, his potential for exposure, and some information on the uncertainty of film badges used during the period of his work at Enewetak. As I understood, you are requesting such data to assist in filing a claim with the Department of Justice (DOJ). As we discussed, it would be best to call the DOJ to address the questions you have on how best to file the claim and how they will likely classify your late husband's combination of lymphoma and prostate cancer. The toll-free phone number for the DOJ is 1-800-729-7327.

As I mentioned on the telephone, it is possible to get a copy of your husband's records and any recorded radiation exposure by writing to the following address:

Ms. Martha E. DeMarre  
Program Manager  
Information Services Division  
Bechtel Nevada  
P.O. Box 98521  
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8521

Bechtel Nevada maintains for the Department of Energy all database information on your husband during his employment by Holmes and Narver during the periods you have indicated. As we discussed on the telephone, they will be most helpful in sharing this data if you send them the enclosed form "Affadavit for Surviving Relative" (enclosure 1), which must be signed and notarized in the presence of a Notary Public. In addition, please also fill out and forward the enclosed form "Request for Report of Radiation Exposure History" (enclosure 2). Ms. DeMarre will also need a copy of your current driver's license with a photo identification. From our conversation, I realize you do not put much faith in this recorded film badge data, but to file a claim with the DOJ, it may be helpful to have documentation that he did received recorded radiation exposure. It may be possible that magnitude of dose might not be an



issue. Should you desire more information on the additional enclosures included below, Ms. DeMarre would be better able to assist you or provide any additional information that might be referenced in these documents. Ms. DeMarre's phone number is 702-295-3690.

To assist you in better understanding the uncertainty in film badge data and its associated accuracy, I have enclosed a report entitled "Operation Castle, Radiological Safety," WT-942 (Extracted Version dated August 1954 (enclosure 3), a time period about mid way through your husbands time of involvement. A guide to sections of this report that may be of interest to you is provided (enclosure 4.)

Enclosure 5 provides a copy of the radiological safety briefing for Holmes and Narver engineers and contractors. An additional radiological safety briefing also used at Enewetak is also provided as enclosure 6.

Enclosure 7 is a Joint Pacific Proving Ground Bulletin that discusses radiological safety responsibilities of personnel who were there in the Pacific Proving Ground during this period. Enclosure 8 provides information on radiological hazards at Enewetak Atoll (see middle of page 1).

Enclosure 9 is a Pacific Proving Ground indoctrination that was provided to all personnel assigned to or visiting the Pacific Proving Ground (other than Enewetak Island). Although not as applicable to your husband's involvement, there are some general health and safety provisions included on pages 5 and 6.

Enclosure 10 is a report entitled "Operation Castle, Report of the Manager, Santa Fe Operations" prepared in extracted format by the Defense Nuclear Agency in November 1981 that was formerly classified Secret/Restricted Data. Some parts still remain classified and those portions are not a part of this extracted version. Figures 14 through 23 in the middle of the report between pages 33 and 49 provide some maps and graphs that better describe the locations of buildings and structures at Elmer Campsite on Enewetak Island where your husband would have worked.

I hope this information will be helpful to you and that this has been responsive to your request.

Sincerely,



R. Thomas Bell III  
Supervisor, Pacific Health Programs  
Office of International  
Health Programs

10 enclosures

cc w/o enclosure:  
Martha DeMarre, Bechtel Nevada