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Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 9, 2001

John Greenwald, Jr.

Re: FOIA Request No. F2001-00282

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

This is a final response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. You asked for documents that relate to "Area 51."

The request was assigned to the History Division in the Office of the Executive Secretariat at DOE Headquarters to conduct a search of their files. That office was the Headquarters office most reasonably expected to have documents that are responsive to your request. The search, however, did not locate any responsive documents. Therefore, pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 1004.4(d), I am unable to provide you with any responsive documents. Ms. Marie E. Hallion, Ph.D., the DOE Historian in the Office of the Executive Secretariat, is responsible for the determination by her office that no responsive documents exist.

You may challenge the adequacy of this search for responsive documents by submitting a written appeal to the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, at the U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0107. You should submit the appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of this determination. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 CFR 1004.8. Judicial review will thereafter be available (1) in the District of Columbia; (2) in the district where you reside; (3) in the district where you have your principal place of business; or (4) in the district where the DOE records are located.

An inquiry was also sent to the Nevada Operations Office, since that is the DOE office located closest to the subject of your request. For your convenience I have enclosed a copy of their reply that is sent in response to all such requests.

The above referenced number has been assigned to your request and you should refer to it in correspondence to the DOE concerning this matter. If you have questions about the processing of your request, you may contact Ms. Carol Wolf of my staff on (202) 586-3141.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you.

Sincerely,

Abel Lopez, Director

FOIA/Privacy Act Division

Office of the Executive Secretariat

Enclosure



Department of Energy Nevada Operations Office Response to Inquiries about Area 51:

The 38,400-acre land area once known as "Area 51" was withdrawn from public use by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, a predecessor to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), more than 35 years ago under Public Land Order 1662 (filed June 25, 1958).

Since that time, the parcel has been used and administered as a national asset. Because DOE is not now active there, Area 51 no longer appears on maps of DOE's Nevada Test Site (NTS).

Today that land area is used by the Department of Defense as part of its 4,120-square-mile Nellis Air Force Range. For safety and national security reasons, air space above both the Nellis Range and the NTS is closed to commercial aviation and the general public.

For more information, you may wish to contact HQ USAF/Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison Office, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20330-5054.



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

May 15, 20001

F2001-00282

John Greenewald, Jr.

Re: Documentation on the Air Base known as "Area 51"


Dear Mr. Greenewald:

Thank you for the request for information that you made to the Department of Energy under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. Your letter was received in this office today, and has been assigned a controlled number, F2001-00282. Since we receive several hundred requests a year, please use this number in any correspondence with the Department concerning your request.

We are reviewing your letter to determine if it addresses all of the criteria of a proper request under the FOIA and the Department's regulation that implements the FOIA at Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1004. We will send you a subsequent letter informing you if we need additional information or stating where the request has been assigned to conduct a search for responsive documents.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact this office on (202) 586-6025.

Sincerely,


for Abel Lopez
FOIA/Privacy Act Division
Office of the Executive Secretariat





Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 22, 2001

John Greenwald, Jr.

Re: F2001-00282

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

This is in response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. You asked for "all documentation on the air base known as Area 51, to include documents on the originating year of the base, its purpose, controlling agency, etc."

Your request has been assigned to the History Division of the Office of the Executive Secretariat to conduct a search of its files for responsive documents. Upon completion of their search and the review of any documents that may be located, you will be provided a response.

In your letter you agreed to pay up to \$15.00 for the requested material. Since it has been determined that fees to process the request should not exceed \$15.00, the minimum amount at which the Department assesses fees. For this reason, no fees will be assessed to process the request.

If you need further assistance, please contact Mr. Cliff Scroger in the Office of the Executive Secretariat, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, Washington D.C. 20585. You also may contact him at 301-903-1589.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter. If you have any questions about the processing of the request, please contact Ms. Carol Wolf of my staff at (202) 586-3141.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abel Lopez".

Abel Lopez, Director
FOIA/Privacy Act Division
Office of the Executive Secretariat

