

Frank Vera III

www.GeorgeAFB.Info

3 July 2013

BY FAX TO: 703-767-9201

Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC-R)
ATTN: FOIA Requester Service Center
8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 0944
Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060-6218
Phone: 703-767-9194
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FOIA Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

I am requesting an unredacted copy of the following report: Accession Number: ADA177856
Title: **Wastewater Characterization Survey Victor Valley, Wastewater Reclamation Authority and Hazardous Waste Survey at George AFB, California**, Report Date: JAN 1987
(See page: 5)

Public Interest Fee Waiver

I request a Public Interest Fee Waiver for the aforementioned document since disclosure of the [requested] information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the operations or activities of the government and I have NO commercial interest in the requested information, as defined in DOD5400.7-R_AFMAN 33-302 § C6.1.4.1. and 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

Based on the following, the requested records clearly meet all six of the requirements for a Public Interest Fee Waiver set forth in the Department of Defense Freedom of Information Act Handbook § 286.28 and the DOJ Guide to the FOIA § Fees and Fee Waivers:

1) The subject of the request. § C6.1.4.3.1.1.

- The requested record pertains to the environmental contamination at former George Air Force Base, CA, Superfund ID: CA2570024453 and is NOT available in the Administrative Record for George AFB.
- The requested record is necessary to establish the "Completed Exposure Pathways" for the hazardous materials at George AFB and will answer the following questions:
 - a) When did the Air Force (AF) have knowledge that a problem existed and did its employees withhold information from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for its Health Assessment of George AFB?
 - b) Did Air Force employees knowingly mislead the ATSDR and the public?

2) ***The informative value of the information to be disclosed.*** § C6.1.4.3.1.2.

- The Air Force dumped approximately 5,578,400 gallons (4) of a toxic cocktail containing acids, chemicals, cleaners, degreasers, detergents, developer, fuel, grease, herbicides, lubricants, medical wastes, oils, paints, pesticides, process chemicals, solvents, strippers, waste oil, and wax into the sewer at George AFB.
- The effluent (outflow) from the sewage treatment plant's percolation ponds containing this toxic cocktail was used to irrigate the golf course (a.k.a. S-12, OT-22) from 1965 to 1 December 1981.
- The golf course is within 500 feet to a ¼ mile adjacent/upstream of the cluster of high volume production wells for George AFB and Adelanto, and smaller wells for private homes, and the former Victor Valley Country Club.
- The groundwater flows northeast under the golf course to the "Zone of Contribution" (ZOC) for the well fields for George AFB, Adelanto, and private homes, and the former Victor Valley Country Club, and therefore considered upstream of these supply wells.
- The contaminated drinking water wells provided the following "Completed Exposure Pathways"
 - a) Ingestion: Drinking water, cooking
 - b) Dermal Contact: bathing, showering, swimming pool, occupational exposures
 - c) Inhalation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs): showering, swamp coolers

3) ***The contribution to an understanding of the subject by the general public likely to result from the disclosure.*** § C6.1.4.3.1.3.

- The release of the unredacted documents is necessary to establish the nature and extent and the "Completed Exposure Pathway(s)" for the contamination at George AFB.
- The disclosure is the first step in requesting a new Health Assessment by the ATSDR.
- The contaminated drinking water at George AFB created a potential exposure to tens of thousands of civilians, and military personnel and their family members over the years.

4) ***The significance of the contribution to public understanding.*** § C6.1.4.3.1.4.

- The current belief is "On-site groundwater has never been used as a source for drinking water at George AFB and no supply wells are expected to be installed there in the foreseeable future. ..." This is a direct quote from the ATSDR's 1 December 1998 report "Health Assessment for George AFB," section "Evaluation of Groundwater Exposure Pathway".
- The AF knew that the ATSDR came to a flawed conclusion in their 1 December 1998 report "Health Assessment for George AFB". This was because the ATSDR was not supplied with the information (by the AF) and/or did not fully understand of the nature and extent of the contamination, locations of the IRP sites, hydrology data (direction of the groundwater flow), and the locations of the water supply wells for George AFB, Adelanto, private homes, and the former Victor Valley Country Club. The AF did not correct the ATSDR during the Peer Review / Public Comments period or after the report was published in 1998.

- The AF knew that the groundwater flows northeast under George AFB's OT-22 (a.k.a. S-12, the golf course), directly to the supply wells for George AFB, Adelanto, private homes, and the former Victor Valley Country Club. While OT-22 is adjacent to the supply wells, it should be considered to be upstream of these wells because of its close proximity to them and because it is in the zone of influence (cone of depression) of this large cluster of high volume wells.
- A new Health Assessment is necessary before the AF and/or ATSDR will notify the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and former George AFB personnel of their possible exposure to potentially life threatening environmental contamination at George AFB.

5) ***Disclosure of the information is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.***

§ C6.1.4.3.2.

- I have NO commercial interest in the requested documents and the requested records will be posted, free of charge, on www.GeorgeAFB.Info. ...”
- *Which is greater, the identified public interest or the identified commercial interest.* Public interest is greater as there is NO commercial interest and the requested records will be posted, free of charge, on www.GeorgeAFB.Info.

6) ***The ability of the requester to disseminate the information.***

- I have the ability to disseminate information on a wide scale, and intend to use information obtained through FOIA in original works.” While [GeorgeAFB.Info](http://www.GeorgeAFB.Info) is not a large website, it has 30 to 70 thousand hits, 3 to 4 thousand unique visitors, 7 to 20 thousand page views, and visitors from more than 10 countries, a month.
- I have published dozens of records that I have received through FOIA(s). Over one hundred people have contacted me through [GeorgeAFB.Info](http://www.GeorgeAFB.Info) regarding health problems that these people, and their friends and family developed during and shortly after being stationed at George AFB. In some families, every child who was born at George AFB died before the age of twenty-four years, with some families experiencing the loss of up to four children. In other families, all but one of up to five family members, including adults, died at or shortly after leaving George AFB (See Self-Reported Health Problems on www.GeorgeAFB.Info). Some of these people were Adelanto School District employees who worked at the two schools that were allowed to remain open on the former George AFB, for 10 years after it closed.

Record Format

I request that any documents or records produced in response to this request be provided in electronic (soft-copy) form wherever possible. Acceptable formats are .pdf, .doc, docx, .jpg, .gif, .tif. Please provide soft-copy records by email or on a CD if email is not feasible.

Please conduct a thorough search for the requested records and provide an unredacted copy of the requested records.

If you wish to discuss this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 209-984-5517.

Thank you for processing this FOIA Request.

Sincerely,

Frank Vera III

Physical address:

[REDACTED]

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am the person named above (requester) and I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. section 1001 by a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or by imprisonment of not more than five years or both, and that requesting or obtaining any record(s) under false pretenses is punishable under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(3) by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00.

[REDACTED]

Frank Vera III

[REDACTED]

Date:



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Accession Number : ADA177856

Title : Wastewater Characterization Survey Victor Valley, Wastewater Reclamation Authority and Hazardous Waste Survey at George AFB, California.

Descriptive Note : Final rept.

Corporate Author : AIR FORCE OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LAB BROOKS AFB TX

Personal Author(s) : Binovi,Robert D. ; Ng,Elliot K ; Tetla,Robert A.

Report Date : JAN 1987

Pagination or Media Count : 172

Abstract : This is a report of a survey of the Victor Wastewater Reclamation Authority Sewerage system, the sewage treatment plant, and effluent from the various operations at George AFB, California. The scope of work included the characterization of the wastewater from George AFB, as well as characterization of effluents from 29 oil/water separators servicing industrial operations on base, flow measurements at three locations on base, a microbiological evaluation of aeration basin foam, bench scale activated sludge studies and a review of results from previous surveys. Recommendations: (1) AFFF (Aqueous Film Forming Foam) should never be discharged to the sewer. (2) Programming for pretreatment should proceed at selected operations. (3) More waste and wastestream analysis be performed. (4) Upgrade waste accumulation points. (5) Implement an aggressive inspection program for oil/water separators. (6) Cut down on nonessential washing. Keywords: Hazardous waste; Pretreatment; Air Force facilities.

Descriptors : *WASTE WATER, *HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, TEST AND EVALUATION, MEASUREMENT, INDUSTRIES, LIQUIDS, FILMS, SURVEYS, INSPECTION, CALIFORNIA, AIR FORCE FACILITIES, FLOW, WASTES, OILS, MICROBIOLOGY, SEWAGE TREATMENT, FOAM, AERATION, SEPARATORS.

Subject Categories : WATER POLLUTION AND CONTROL

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