



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

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September 19, 2023

Matthew Gonzales
United States Department of Commerce
National Institute of Standards and Technology
100 Bureau Drive
Room B35
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-3221

Dear Matthew Gonzales,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) notification, dated September 6, 2023, regarding the unauthorized disposition of 83 boxes of mostly temporary hardcopy records.

NARA acknowledges that these records were damaged during a flood affecting a Records Holding Area in late December 2022, and NIST made attempts to salvage the water-damaged records. However, the records were destroyed because they were unsalvageable due to dangerous mold on the boxes, which posed potential health risks to employees coming into contact with the records.

Please note, should a similar circumstance occur in the future, NIST must follow the process defined in 36 CFR 1229 for the emergency disposal of federal records. This process requires NARA to review and approve agency requests for emergency disposal if there is a continuing menace to human health, life or property before the federal records are actually destroyed.

Based on the information provided, the reporting requirements of 36 CFR 1230.14(a) have been met and this matter is now closed. Thank you for your commitment to improving your records management practices.

Sincerely,

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government