



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

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November 22, 2023

Cali Chen  
Agency Records Officer  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
STOP 0742  
Washington DC, 20250-0742

Dear Cali Chen,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received Rural Development's (RD) preliminary report regarding the unauthorized disposition of agency records. This report indicates that in 2012, when RD upgraded from Microsoft XP to Windows 9, an agency computer was removed from the agency's network because it no longer met security requirements. Since its removal, contents from this computer were inaccessible.

NARA acknowledges that RD is still investigating potential resources it can use to read two hard drives containing approximately 68 - 100 Geographic Information System (GIS) projects and data from other agencies. *"Examples of projects are Obama Administration impact studies, New Madrid Project National Operations Center (Biden), and BP Oil spill (FEMA and Rural Business and Cooperative Services response). The records were created between 2010 – 2012 and would be categorized as permanent according to the geospatial records schedule currently being developed. ...There are paper copies of some of the records generated from these projects held by OSEC, USEC, and others."*

Please provide a final report on this matter when RD has completed its recovery efforts. The report must include details of the actions taken to salvage or reconstruct the records and safeguards established to prevent further loss of agency records.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Laurence.Brewer@nara.gov](mailto:Laurence.Brewer@nara.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence v. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

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

Cc:

Beatriz Collazo  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Department Records Officer