



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

***Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.***

March 14, 2024

Maria Levesque  
Departmental Records Officer  
Department of Energy  
Office of the Chief Information Officer IM-41  
Washington DC, 20024

Dear Maria Levesque,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has been notified of the potential unauthorized destruction of several boxes of X-ray films at the Seattle Federal Records Center (FRC). Staff at the Richland Operations Office Hanford Site, Department of Energy (DOE), Richland, WA, reported that they received notice from the Seattle FRC that records were destroyed due to water damage caused by a leak in the Center's roof. If records were damaged but not definitively destroyed, please refer to NARA guidance on records recovery and remediation.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.14(a), NARA requests that DOE respond within 30 calendar days to this allegation. If it is determined that an unauthorized disposition of records has occurred, the response should include the following information:

- A complete description of the records with volume and dates if known;
- The office maintaining the records;
- A statement of the exact circumstances surrounding the removal, defacing, alteration, or destruction of records;
- A statement of the safeguards established to prevent further loss of documentation; and
- Details of the actions taken to salvage, retrieve, or reconstruct the records.

If it is determined that there has been no unauthorized disposition, please provide us with sufficient documentation to support that finding. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact me at [laurence.brewer@nara.gov](mailto:laurence.brewer@nara.gov).

Sincerely,

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

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



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April 9, 2024

Maria Levesque  
Departmental Records Officer  
Department of Energy  
Office of the Chief Information Officer IM-41  
Washington DC, 20024

Dear Maria Levesque,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) acknowledges receipt of the Department of Energy's (DOE) email regarding the loss of several boxes of X-ray films at the Seattle Federal Records Center (FRC).

We understand that based on conversations with the records owner and Seattle FRC staff, DOE has determined that no records were lost. We also understand that DOE received a report from the Seattle FRC stating that some of the records were wet and showed signs of mold but the damage was fully remediated.

Based on this information, NARA is satisfied with the actions DOE has taken and considers this matter closed. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at [laurence.brewer@nara.gov](mailto:laurence.brewer@nara.gov).

Sincerely,

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