



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
9301 CHAPEK ROAD
FORT BELVOIR VA 22060-5527

March 12, 2019

SAAA-LS

Melanie Benesh
Environmental Working Group
Sent via email: mbenesh@ewg.org

This letter acknowledges our receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated November 15, 2018. You are seeking all water testing records for all DoD installations concerning contamination by any PFAS chemical.

This request is being processed in accordance with Title 5 United States Code 552, The Freedom of Information Act. Your request was assigned FOIA Activity Control Number FA-19-0044.

This office processes requests on a "first-in, first-out" basis. Because numerous offices may be involved in the query and review of responsive records, the complete processing of a request can take weeks and sometimes months. We will work to respond to you as expeditiously as possible and are sorry for any inconvenience a delay may cause. We thank you for your patience. You may check the status of your request by going to <https://www.foia.army.mil/facts/casestatus.aspx> and entering FP-19-007462 in the FOIA Control Number box.

Be advised, your request for a fee waiver is denied. A preliminary search result found that it would take approximately 40 hours per installation to conduct a records search and there are 154 installations. For the ground water wells (restoration), we estimate about 200 hours to gather the information. It would take an estimated 6,400 man-hours and cost you (the requestor) an estimated \$290,400.00 after the first free 100 pages provided by law to process your request.

We ask you to narrow the scope of your request as your request is too broad in scope. Records must be described in reasonably sufficient detail to enable government employees who are familiar with the subject area to locate records without placing an unreasonable burden upon the Army. "A request to narrow the scope of a search is entirely permissible under the act" by a government agency. Rugiero v. U.S. Dep't of Justice, 257 F.3d 534, 548 (6th Cir. 2001).

If we do not hear from you within 10 days from the date of this letter, we will assume you are no longer interested in this FOIA request and the case will be administratively closed. Please be advised that this letter is not a denial of your request and will not preclude you from filing other requests in the future.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact this office at (703) 614-5871 or usarmy.belvoir.hqda-aaa-rpa.mbx.aaa-cals-mailbox-foia@mail.mil. In all correspondence please refer to FOIA number FA-19-0044.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul V. DeAgostino', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Paul V. DeAgostino
Senior Counsel