

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**NUCLEAR TESTING ARCHIVE  
(NTA)**

**OPERATED BY**

**National Security Technologies, LLC**

**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**REVISED April 2015**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
**Nuclear Testing Archive**

**Background of the Nuclear Testing Archive (NTA)**

The Nuclear Testing Archive (NTA) (formerly named the Coordination and Information Center (CIC)) was established by the U.S. Department of Energy in March 1979. The NTA administered by the U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Agency Nevada Field Office (SOE/NNSA/NFO) and is operated by National Security Technologies, LLC. The current facility is located at 755 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada. The NTA has been opened to the public since July 1981.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Nuclear Testing Archive is to:

- Collect and consolidate, for long term preservation, historical documents, records and data dealing with offsite radioactive fallout from U.S. testing of nuclear devices.
- Collect and consolidate, for long term preservation, historical documents dealing with Human Radiation Experimentation.
- Provide resources and methods for identification and retrieval of specific documents based on subject and content.
- Allow access to the collected documents by interested parties, including the general public.

**Scope**

The Nuclear Testing Archive, as a publicly accessible facility, contains only unclassified documents. Many formerly classified documents have been declassified or sanitized and are included in the collection. There are no classified documents available at or through the Nuclear Testing Archive.

The scope of the collection (see Document Types - Appendix A) includes:

- Data and documentation on the detection and measurement of radioactive fallout and the related factors resulting from nuclear device test activities at the Nevada Test Site, the TRINITY Event, the Pacific Proving Grounds, and other on-continent test locations.
- Policy documents dealing with procedures and conduct of tests and public safety considerations and actions.

- Published and primary sources describing the development and state-of-knowledge of the health effects of radiation.
- Documents dealing with public information as disseminated through such media as pamphlets, news releases and news publications.
- Related studies and reports produced by the scientific and technical field.

### **Sources and Type of Information**

The Nuclear Testing Archive began document collection in the Fall of 1979. Since then it has indexed around 386,000 documents. Collection activities are continuing and it is anticipated that approximately 450,000 documents will ultimately be included in the collection.

To date, documents have been received from over eighty individual and agency contributors. The major sources of documents have come from the U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters offices; the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Operations Office and Albuquerque Operations Office; the Las Vegas and Washington, DC offices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Nuclear Agency and Defense Technical Information Center; the U.S. Department of Energy Technical Information Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; the U.S. Department of Energy Environmental Measurements Laboratory, New York City; Los Alamos National Laboratory; Livermore National Laboratory; Sandia National Laboratory; the University of California Project 37 Files (UCLA); the Utah State Archives, Salt Lake City; the Nevada State Archives, Carson City; the Weather Service Nuclear Support Office; Holmes and Narver, Inc.; Bayonne Record Center; University of Washington; Scripps Institute; Army Chemical Corps (WNRC); Air Force Weapons Laboratory; Library of Congress; National Archives; National Radiobiology Archives; San Bruno Record Center (USNRDL); U.S. Department of Agriculture; and the Technical Library of Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., Mercury, Nevada.

Appendix B geographically depicts the sources from which documents have been collected.

The following describes, in general, the content of some of the most significant collections:

- Documents collected from the archives in the Historian's Office of the U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters focus primarily on the policy and decision making activities of the Atomic Energy Commission. These include the minutes of the Atomic Energy Commission, the General Advisory Committee, and the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine; executive correspondence, secretariat papers, staff papers and special reports for the Atomic Energy Commission, the Division of Biology and Medicine and Division of Military Applications.
- The DOE/NNSA Nevada Site Office files yielded a wide variety of documentation including operational and administrative orders, reports, procedures and correspondence regarding conduct of nuclear testing.
- The files of the Las Vegas Environmental Protection Agency (successor to the Public Health Service) contains monitoring, sampling and surveillance data and reports of the offsite monitoring program in the offsite area out to 250 miles from the Nevada Test Site from 1954 to the present.
- The U.S. Department of Energy's Environmental Measurements Laboratory collection contains monitoring, sampling, and surveillance data and reports from the area beyond 250 miles from the Nevada Test Site.
- The files of Project 37 of the University of California at Los Angeles deal with soil sampling, monitoring and the persistence of fallout from select test events within a 250 miles radius of the Nevada Test Site.
- By request of the Health, Education and Welfare Department, a review of the records from the Washington, DC offices of the old Public Health Service was conducted in 1979. This review produced a three volume report, "Effects of Nuclear Weapons Testing on Health Report of the Panel of Experts on the Archives of Public Health Service Documents," which lists approximately 12,000 documents. The three volume report and microfilm copy of all documents listed are in the Nuclear Testing Archive collection.
- The U.S. Department Threat Reduction Agency's Nuclear Test Personnel Review Program has produced a series of summary reports on the Pacific and Continental atmospheric weapons test in which the U.S. Department of Defense and military personnel participated. The Nuclear Testing Archive is a repository for the summary reports and for many of the reference documents.

- In January 1979, at the request of Governor Scott M. Matheson, Utah state offices surveyed their records and files and produced a collection of documents dealing with fallout, the health effects of ionizing radiation and other related topics. Microfilm copy of this collection is resident in the Nuclear Testing Archive.
- The initial group of documents obtained from the Los Alamos National Laboratory contains copies of the original offsite monitoring logs for Operation Upshot/Knothole in 1953. The logs contain original recordings and summations of radiation measurements, sampling collections and related data. A second more extensive collection of the Los Alamos National Laboratory documents contains reports, correspondence and data related to Los Alamos National Laboratories involvement in nuclear testing.
- The University of Washington and The Scripps Institute collections include data and reports covering their projects to document the ocean and the oceanic ecosystem during the Pacific atmospheric testing era.
- The Nuclear Testing Archive collection includes selected documents from the Stafford Warren collection, covering topics such as the TRINITY Event, the Crossroads Operation, and health studies associated with the Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors. The complete Stafford Warren Collection resides at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).
- The Nuclear Testing Archive collection includes selected documents from the J. N. Stannard Collection, covering topics such as the radionuclide metabolism, internal deposition, and biological effects. These documents were provided by the National Radiobiology Archives (NRA).
- The Nuclear Testing Archive collection includes journal articles and reports on epidemiologic and health studies associated with atomic and/or ionizing radiation.
- The Nuclear Testing Archive collection includes press releases issued by the U.S. Department of Energy and predecessor offices as well as an extensive collection of newspaper articles which reflect the concern for public information and the public attitude and knowledge about the testing program in Nevada.

## **Human Radiation Experimentation Records Consolidation Project**

In response to U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary's Openness Initiative, the Department of Energy collected records associated the Department's and predecessor organizations involvement with human radiation experimentation. During 1994 and 1995, records were collected from the Department of Energy's headquarters and field offices. The records were indexed and are available at the Nuclear Testing Archive.

## **Resources for Identification of Documents of Interest**

Subject access to the collection is based on a computerized Bibliographic Data Base. Of the approximate 450,000 documents identified for inclusion into the Nuclear Testing Archive, over 380,000 are entered in the database. The data base contains several elements as noted in Appendix C. Principal search elements include title (or title words), author, date, originating agency and original report number. If desired, the data base can also be searched on other elements.

Internet access is available to the public in the Reading Room. The NTA entries in the DOE OpenNet internet site can be accessed at:

<https://www.osti.gov/opennet>

Staff is available to assist patrons with these user friendly systems.

## **Nuclear Testing Archive Facilities and Services**

Normal library services, such as assistance in locating documents, are provided at no charge. Other services, such as copying and proxy research by the Nuclear Testing Archive staff, will be provided according to a fee schedule. Copies of the fee schedule are available on request.

The Nuclear Testing Archive facility provides accommodations for:

- A public reading room where documents of general public interest are available for review.
- A research area where requested documents may be used for more in-depth study.
- Computer searches of the database and files are conducted by the research staff.

A staff of technical and clerical personnel is available to provide research assistance and access to documents.

### **Nuclear Testing Archive Hours**

The Nuclear Testing Archive is open for visitors from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. The location is 755C East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada. Request for services can be made to the Nuclear Testing Archive, National Security Technologies, LLC, Mail Stop 400, Post Office Box 98521, Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8521 or call (702) 794-5106.

### **Internet Resources**

1. The bibliographic index to the NTA record collection is available as part on the OPENNET database at the following URL:

<https://www.osti.gov/opennet/>

- 2 Nuclear Testing videos available at the NTA can be ordered through DOE/NNSA Field Office Web site, at URL:

<http://www.nv.energy.gov/library/forms/testfilm.htm>

DOCUMENT TYPES

DATA, MAPS, STRIP-CHARTS, GRAPHS

MONITORING LOGS & WORKSHEETS

DOSE RECONSTRUCTIONS

POLICY DOCUMENTS

OPERATIONAL DOCUMENTS, ORDERS, PLANS

MEETING MINUTES

CORRESPONDENCE (Letters, Memos, TWX, etc.)

HEARING AND COURT PAPERS

REPORTS, PUBLISHED & UNPUBLISHED

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, JOURNAL ARTICLES

AEC STAFF PAPERS

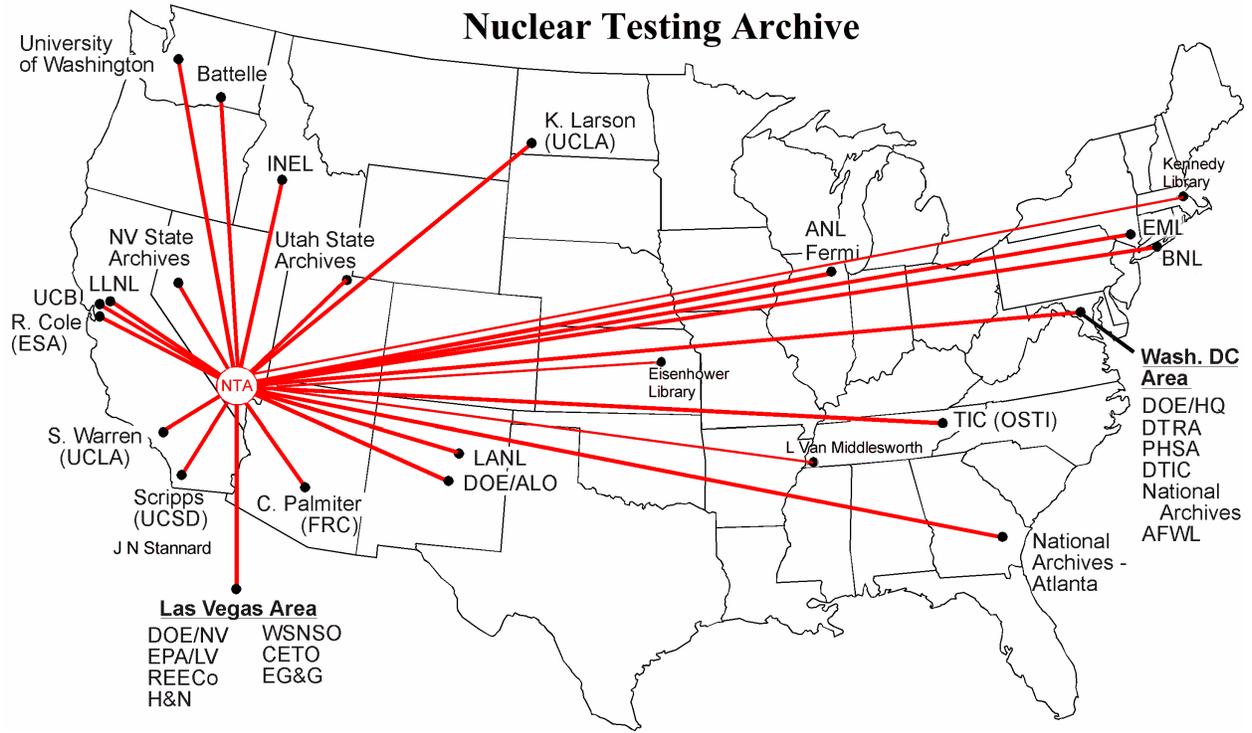
METEOROLOGICAL DATA

SPECIAL STUDIES

PRESS RELEASES, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, & SPEECHES

BOOKS, MANUALS & REFERENCE MATERIAL

# Principal Source of Documents for the Nuclear Testing Archive



APPENDIX B

# **INDEXING ELEMENTS**

## **ACCESSION NUMBER**

### **TITLE-IDENTS (All Documents)**

- TITLE or SUBJECT
- DOCUMENT DATE
- ORIGINAL DOCUMENT NUMBER
- ORIGINAL AGENCY
- CONTRIBUTING AGENCY
- DOCUMENT TYPE

## **AUTHOR**

## **KEYWORDS**

## **ABSTRACTS**

## **LOCATIONS**

## **ADDRESSEES**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **COMPANION DOCUMENTS**

## **CROSS-INDEX NUMBERS**