

United States Senate

October 29, 2007

The Honorable Charles E. Johnson
Assistant Secretary for Resources and Technology, Room 514-G
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary Johnson:

I respectfully ask that the Department's Office of the Budget, Division of Discretionary Programs estimate in conjunction with the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute the cost and time required to analyze cancers related to the 1945 Trinity nuclear test in New Mexico as follows:

- 1) the range of the expected number of cancers and other radiogenic illnesses (both fatal and nonfatal cases) expected among the local communities as a result of their exposures to radioactive fallout from Trinity nuclear explosion in 1945. Because this may require an estimate of future illnesses, can you describe the scientific consensus regarding the maximum limit of the latency period for these radiogenic illnesses.
- 2) the range of the baseline risk for those diseases. That is, an estimate of the number of these illnesses that would be expected to occur naturally among the local communities in the vicinity of the Trinity test.

I would like to ask that this estimate can be provided to me no later than November 30, 2007. My point of contact for this effort is Dr. Jonathan S. Epstein, 202-224-3357.

Sincerely,


Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator

cc: The Hon. Mike Leavitt, Secretary
The Hon. Elias A. Zarhouni, Director NIH