



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT**  
**1325 J STREET**  
**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922**

June 29, 2021

Ms. Laura Wright  
Environmental Affairs Manager  
City of Pittsburg  
65 Civic Avenue  
Pittsburg, CA 94565

SUBJECT: City of Pittsburg Inquiry Regarding Historical Military Testing at Camp Stoneman

Dear Ms. Wright:

Thank you for your inquiry on June 16, 2021 regarding statements made by Mr. [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] reported that as a service member in 1956 he painted buildings at Camp Stoneman with radioactive materials, and watched as others washed the material off the buildings.

We have located a public record of the test event, which was conducted by the U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory. The report entitled "Cost and Effectiveness of Decontamination Procedures for Land Targets" and dated December 27, 1957, describes the radiological test performed at Camp Stoneman in September 1956. During this test, synthetic fallout material was applied to paved and roofing areas and then various decontamination methods were evaluated. The report notes that the radioactive tracer used in the synthetic fallout material was Lanthanum-140 (La-140). This radioisotope has a half-life of 40.2 hours. Given this fact, the La-140 that was used in this test had decayed to a stable isotope (Cerium-140) and was gone after 402 hours or approximately 17 days. Accordingly, there is no test-related radiation concern at the site as more than 64 years have passed since the test event.

In addition, the report notes that a radiation safety program was in place during the test. Radiation exposure to personnel involved in the test was monitored during the test and the results were well below current federal limits. I have included a copy of the referenced public report with this letter for your information.

Given the above information, we consider this matter closed. We have advised Mr. [REDACTED] that we have answered your inquiry to us and recommended to him that he contact you to follow up on his report to your office.

Sincerely,

SPECHT.JAMES  
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James Specht  
FUDS Program Manager

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Enclosure