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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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May 20, 1994

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Clinton:

Recent disclosures have indicated that a series of radioactive tests occurred at the Dugway Proving Ground commencing in the late 1940s. Initially six tests were identified but recently a Freedom of Information Act request has suggested that over 600 tests may have occurred. Specific information is now available on a total of thirty-three tests. For years, Utahns have known of open air testing of chemical and biological agents at Dugway Proving Grounds. It is disturbing to now discover that radiological testing occurring during the same time frame was not publicly disclosed. With Utah's experience dealing with the open air tests at the Nevada Test Site, this revelation at Dugway again engenders distrust of the federal government for its failure to protect the citizens of the State of Utah.

I join with others in requesting a full disclosure of the radiological testing program at Dugway Proving Ground. Information relating to the specific radionuclides used in the tests, areas where testing occurred on Dugway, any known contaminated areas on Dugway as a result of the testing, and the potential for exposure to Dugway workers and the surrounding environment and population should be disclosed. It is imperative that this information be provided in a timely manner to ensure the citizens of Utah that the Department of the Army is acting in a responsible manner to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

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cc: Suzanne Winters, State Science Advisor  
Dianne Nielson, Executive Director, UDEQ  
Col. James R. King, Commanding Officer, Dugway Proving Grounds  
Bob Doda, NRC Region IV  
Utah Congressional delegation