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DRN Appeals Army Denial of VX Information

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Army Denies VX Information Request
Delaware Riverkeeper Network Files Appeal

The U.S. Army has denied Delaware Riverkeeper Network access to materials used in producing a public report they issued in April 2006. Delaware Riverkeeper Network filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the Army for a copy of "NECDF On-Site Hydrolysate Post Treatment Estimate" by Shaw Environmental, which was used in producing the Army's "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Off-Site Versus On-Site Treatment and Disposal of Newport Caustic Hydrolysate".

The Army claimed they did not have to provide the information under FOIA exemption b (4) "high and withheld from public release", stating that they are protecting "the government and the submitters of sensitive trade, business or commercial data". DRN filed an administrative appeal on September 11, 2006 and has now been notified that the appeal was in review. No timeline has been provided by the Army.

"It is unfortunate and unfair, frankly, that we have to go to the lengths of an administrative appeal to get such basic and needed data. The public has the right to know how much it would cost to bring VX nerve agent waste to New Jersey for processing by Dupont and ultimate discharge into the Delaware River," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. "DRN wants to delve into the economic underpinnings of the proposal and we are being stymied by the Army's roadblocks to this fundamental information. What do they have to hide?" said van Rossum.

For a copy of DRN's appeal letter, go to www.delawariverkeeper.org

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