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**Homeland  
Security**

Science and Technology

October 23, 2013

John Greenewald, Jr.  
The Black Vault



**Sent via email to:** john@greenewald.com

**Re: 2013-STFO-023**

Dear Mr. Greenewald, Jr.:

This is an electronic acknowledgement and final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), dated September 20, 2013. You are seeking a copy of all documents that contain the lists of pathogens which are currently stored or studied at Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

A search of the S&T Office of National Laboratories for documents responsive to your request was conducted by searching files and computers while using the key words livestock purchases, research projects, diseases, and pathogens. This search produced a total of 120 pages responsive to your request. Of those pages found responsive to your request, I have determined that 115 pages of the records are releasable in their entirety, zero pages are partially releasable, and five pages are withheld in their entirety pursuant to Title 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(3) which prevents release when release is prohibited by law. In this instance, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-188) specifically sections 121(c) and 351A of the act prohibits public disclosure of the records you seek pertaining to "a list of pathogens which are currently stored at the Plum Island Research Center".

Enclosed are 115 pages with certain information withheld as described below.

**FOIA Exemption 3** protects information specifically exempted from disclosure by another statute, if the statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (B) established particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld.

You have a right to appeal the above withholding determination. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 60 days of the date of this letter, to: Associate General Counsel (General Law), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528, following the procedures outlined in the DHS regulations at 6 C.F.R. § 5.9. Your

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) also mediates disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. If you wish to contact OGIS, you may email them at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov) or call 1-877-684-6448.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$25.00 minimum, there is no charge.

If you need to contact our office again about this matter, please refer to **2013-STFO-023**. This office can be reached at [stfoia@dhs.gov](mailto:stfoia@dhs.gov) or (202) 254-6342.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katrina Hagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katrina" being more prominent than the last name "Hagan".

Katrina Hagan  
FOIA Officer

Enclosures: Responsive Records, 115 pages  
Inventory Sheet, 1 page