



NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and* RECORDS ADMINISTRATION  
8601 ADELPHI ROAD COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001  
[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

***Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.***

January 7, 2020

Ms. Kim Tart  
Director of Enterprise Records Service (ERS) and  
Agency Records Officer  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Enterprise Records Service (005R1B)  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Ms. Tart:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received the Department of Veteran Affairs' (VA) letter of an unauthorized disposition of medical research records at the Coatesville VA Medical Center. The VA reported that records for approximately 57 inactive research studies were removed and destroyed by contractors hired to remediate flood damage in the building where the records were archived. The contractors' actions were not authorized by VA personnel and the agency is unable to retrieve the paper records from the landfill in which they were disposed.

VA's search efforts have resulted in the recovery and reconstruction of a majority of the missing records via digital files in the agency's network drives and other systems. The agency has exhausted all recovery efforts, however, the VA's research team and Privacy Office continue to work together to resolve issues related to PII in the destroyed files. Based on this information, NARA requests additional information regarding the implemented security safeguards that the VA has adopted in order to prevent the unlawful removal and disposal of similar medical records and PII information from its facilities in the future. Please respond to this memo within 30 days with additional information so that NARA may determine whether the reporting requirements have been met. If you have any questions, please contact me at [laurence.brewer@nara.gov](mailto:laurence.brewer@nara.gov).

Sincerely,

LAURENCE BREWER  
Chief Records Officer  
for the U.S. Government



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***Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.***

December 4, 2020

Ms. Kim Tart  
Director of Enterprise Records Service (ERS) and  
Agency Records Officer  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Enterprise Records Service (005R1B)  
Washington, DC 20420  
[kim.tart@va.gov](mailto:kim.tart@va.gov)

Dear Ms. Tart:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) response regarding NARA's request for further information about records management safeguards at the Coatesville VA Medical Center (CVAMC) (UD-2020-0016). The VA has instituted risk mitigation actions, including the implementation of additional procedures, guidance, and training at its CVAMC facility. Based on the information that you provided, the reporting requirements of 36 CFR 1230.14(a) have been met. NARA is satisfied with the safeguards established and considers this matter closed. If you have any questions, please contact me at [laurence.brewer@nara.gov](mailto:laurence.brewer@nara.gov).

Sincerely,

LAURENCE BREWER  
Chief Records Officer  
for the U.S. Government