



NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and* RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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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.

Sincerely,

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