



Matthew Phelan <proflinuspauling@gmail.com>

Re: EPA

matthew phelan <matthew.d.phelan@gmail.com>
To: Matthew Phelan <matthew.d.phelan@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 22, 2022 at 10:28 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Scott West** <rscottwest@mac.com>
Date: Wed, Nov 20, 2019 at 8:25 PM
Subject: Re: EPA
To: Matthew Phelan <matthew.phelan@slate.com>

Hello Matthew,

You may know that I am not one to hesitate to expose malfeasance on the part of government agencies. My efforts to expose misconduct by EPA CID management is one of the reasons why Administrator Whitman resigned in 2003, and why everyone in my chain of command up to and including her left. I also did not hesitate to point out malfeasance on the part of the Bush and subsequently the Obama DOJ in relation to BP. You probably do not know that for most of my adult life, I held TS security clearances.

The current and continued classification of my investigation is appropriate. I will not participate in any activity that would or could result in the release of classified information.

A better story to pursue perhaps would be the fact that the Obama DOJ (and EPA) failed to properly investigate the Deepwater Horizon catastrophe. It was a crime, yet nothing really came of large sums of money and time invested in a smoke and mirrors investigation. I noted publicly at the time (2010) that a proper criminal investigation had not been initiated and predicted that nothing would ever come out of the high profile charade.

I can only imagine how difficult it must be in the present climate for EPA CID investigations.

Regards,

Scott West

On Nov 20, 2019, at 08:35, Matthew Phelan <matthew.phelan@slate.com> wrote:

Hi, Scott. It's nice to have an excuse to make your acquaintance.

So, I have been thinking that, given the resurgence in UFO interest since the *New York Times* stories from December 2017, now might be the right time, in terms of public sentiment (and attitudes within click-chasing newsrooms), to file a few FOIAs to declassify that 1996-1998 EPA investigation you conducted at Groom Lake.

At the very least, desert wildlife still appear to be suffering from the various chemical compounds that have been dumped around these installations: In 2007, for example, a herd of 71 wild horses were found dead seemingly from the seepage of ammonium nitrate de-icing fluid into the water table, at least according to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

What I would like to do is, firstly, a phone interview sometime in early December for a medium-sized article about the classified chemical compounds at Area51/GroomLake/etc., something "on the record" that need not get too specific, if that's a worry for you. Then, (ideally) I'd like to get some advice from you in a more "on background" capacity about what specifically I might want to look for in my FOIA endeavors. (For example, might I get useful peripheral documents from local Nevada agencies, military bodies, or state universities, if any assisted? Are there related EPA documents beyond the classified report itself—memos, reactions, internal meeting minutes— that might prove useful and might be worth requesting. etc.)

A little more about me: I'm mainly a science journalist — with sort of an ambling background in both applied science research and "fake news" writing for that satire publication *The Onion*. My previous journalism work has appeared at [Gawker](#), [The New Republic](#), and [InsideClimate News](#), among other places.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Best, Sincerely,
Matthew Phelan

On Tue, Nov 19, 2019 at 7:29 PM Scott West <rscottwest@mac.com> wrote:

Hello Matthew,

What's up?

Scott West