

DECLASSIFIED

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WAR DEPARTMENT
 WASHINGTON

The Honorable Claude R. Wickard
 The Secretary of Agriculture

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Under date of May 30, 1945, Mr. George E. Farrell, Agricultural Specialist of your department, made a memorandum report to Gen. J. J. O'Brien, of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, War Department, covering Mr. Farrell's preliminary survey of an area near Carney's Point, New Jersey, where E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company operates two plants under cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contracts with the War Department. Certain peach growers in the area allege that their orchards were damaged and the 1944 crops ruined as a result of the operation of these plants. They also claim that damage continues currently. Their claims involve major sums which the United States would have to pay ultimately, if it should be found that the du Pont Company's operations for the Government were the cause of the damage.

Mr. Farrell's report indicates that there are no facts available that would justify the assumption that the operation of these plants is responsible for the damage alleged. His report also states that to obtain complete information a pomologist, a micologist, and a fertiliser and soils specialist should be directed to survey northern Delaware, southern New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania to plot the peach crop in 1944 and to examine trees to determine whether fertiliser deficiencies and borer control chemicals or exhaust gas had an adverse effect on the peach crop and peach tree foliage.

For the purpose of ascertaining the extent, if any, to which the damage of which the peach growers complain has been caused by operations for the Government, I would appreciate it if you could assign the necessary technical personnel from your department to complete the survey as suggested by Mr. Farrell. The survey should be made as soon as possible.

Major C. A. Tansy, Jr. (telephone: Murray Hill 3-1759, extension 14, New York) or Lieutenant Colonel W. A. Considine (War Department, extension 76341) acting as liaison with Major Tansy, will be ready to make any arrangements necessary to assist in expediting the matter.

Sincerely yours,

HEC

Secretary of War.

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