

AFFIDAVIT

The State of New Mexico

County of Otero

I, Andrew Jess Gililand of Otero, New Mexico,
(name) (county) (state)

MAKE OATH AND SAY THAT:

Please see pages 2 and 3.

STATE OF New Mexico

COUNTY OF Otero

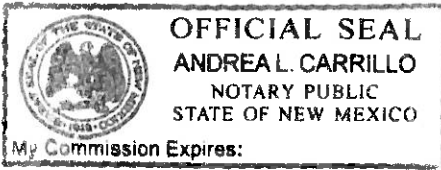
SUBSCRIBED TO AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME,

on the 7th day of October, 2020

Signature: 
Notary Public
My Commission expires: 01/25/2024



(Signature of person making the statement)



My Name is Andrew (Jess) Gililand. My parents were Richard (Dick) and Genevra Wood Gililand.

We were White Sands Missile Range Ranchers, who were living west of Salinas Peak, twenty seven miles from where the atomic bomb was tested.

Our drinking and cooking water ran off the roof into a rainwater cistern. The excess rainwater ran into a dirt tank which we used later if we needed it. The well water across the canyon was too rank to drink.

I had five siblings: Alice, Sam, Dixie, Lola, Pete. Nineteen of Dick and Genevra's immediate family members have been affected by cancer.

My brother Pete and I were asleep on the front porch when the first atomic bomb went off at Trinity. It woke us up. We saw the mushroom twenty seven miles away. The government didn't even bother to tell us to get out of the area beforehand. The government never told us what the mushroom was.

Sam's daughter Cleo had stomach cancer when she was 12.

Sam's daughter-in-law Carol Ann died from colon, liver, and lung cancer.

Alice and her husband Clay Smith had spring water that ran into an open metal tank for their drinking water. Alice had breast cancer when she was in her early 80s, her husband Clay died of colon cancer at the age of 66. Her daughter Lucy died from breast cancer at 42. Her son Richard got prostate cancer when he was 56 and died from it when he was 73. Her granddaughter Cheryl died from cancer.

Dixie and her husband Roy Tucker had spring water that ran into an open tank for their drinking water. Roy died from pancreatic cancer. Her son-in-law Tony Beanblossom died from colon cancer when he was 67. Her daughter-in-law Karen Beanblossom Tucker died of breast cancer.

Lola has had skin cancer. Her husband Hansel Tucker beat colon cancer when he was 52. Both of her sons have been fighting prostate cancer.

Pete had cancer when he died at the age of 79. His wife Wilma was 66 when she died from pancreatic cancer.

I had cancer just below his eye. My wife Louise had thyroid cancer at the age of 83. My daughters Edna Kay Hinkle and Judy Ratliff had breast cancer.

We all drank out of open tanks, either rainwater or spring water. Open tanks, meaning no tops, no lids on the tanks.

Me, my wife Louise, brother Pete Gililland, and his wife Wilma Gililland walked around at the Trinity site after the bomb was detonated. We picked up the melted sand, and took it home, not knowing it was full of radiation. Back in those days they had a fence around the Trinity site, but the gate was open. Our children were clearly affected by it. Wilma was pregnant at the time with Shirley Ann Gililland. Shirley was born without any eyes.

My Uncle John Wood lived on the ranch to the south of us. He had a rain water cistern for his drinking water. The closest well was $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the house. He died of Leukemia. His son Howard and his daughter Bonnie both died of cancer.

My Uncle Pete Wood's ranch was to the south of Uncle John Wood's ranch. Peter had well water, but it pumped into an over head tank. Pete's son-in-law Harvey Hinkle died from lyposarcoma cancer, his grandson Eldon Hinkle died from esophageal cancer.

My Aunt Annie Wood, who lived on the ranch to the north of us had a spring that ran into a open rock tank. She died of esophageal cancer. Their ranch was closer to the Trinity site than our ranch. That makes a total of 25 cancer victims in my family.

Thank you very much for your time and help!
Andrew Jess Gililland Tularosa, New Mexico

Consent form for New Mexico Downwinders

I consent to sharing my story with the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, with my full understanding and permission for them to use my story and identity in their advocacy efforts, which may include (but are not limited to) research, news stories, articles, etc.

Print Name Andrew Jess Gililand

Sign Name 

Date 10-7-2020