

**The original documents are located in Box 119, folder “Horse Deaths” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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SUBJECT: HORSE DEATHS--UPDATE

Yesterday Army, Interior and the State of Utah held a press conference in Dugway to announce that the autopsies of the horse carcasses showed that there were no signs of chemical or bacteriological reasons for the horse deaths; that they appeared to have died from unusual atmospheric conditions that affected the local water supply, and were possibly adversely affected by "human activity" (presumably the National Guard firing) in the immediate vicinity.

However, the vets who had been appointed by BLM to conduct the review promised to continue to seek to find the specific cause or causes of death.

Other horses in the area seem to be in better condition than was thought last weekend.

ME

July 12, 1976

SUBJECT:

HORSE DEATHS IN UTAH

The Post this Saturday reported that 49 wild, protected horses had died on a Utah range that is owned by the Bureau of Land Management, but located next to Army facilities where chemical and biological warfare equipment is being tested. At this time, the cause of death of the horses is unknown.

Is the President concerned about the death of the horses in Utah? Isn't he concerned that the Army might be killing these animals with nerve gas?

GUIDANCE: The Administration is of course concerned with the mysterious death of the horses, which roam the land in the Dugway area. I understand that the Department of Interior (Bureau of Land Management) which owns the land around the Army grounds, is sending out to Utah a team of scientists to study the possible reasons for the deaths. They will be looking at the horse carcasses, the water, and reviewing other possible causes of death, and they expect to make a preliminary report in a few days.

For further questions, call the Interior Department.

ME