



Department of Energy

Official File

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

CORPORATE

January 12, 2004

In reply refer to: KDP-4

Mr. Dan Seligman
Columbia Research Corporation
209 W. Evergreen Blvd., Suite 605
Vancouver, WA

RE: FOIA Request #04-007

Dear Mr. Seligman:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated November 14, 2003, designated as FOIA log #04-007. You requested all written or electronic communications between Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Pacific Northwest members of congress or their staff since June 1, 2000.

Enclosed are non-exempt portions of records responsive to your request. BPA has determined that some of the information you requested is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (exemption 6). Exemption 6 protects personnel, medical and similar files from disclosure when disclosure would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. This exemption is intended to protect individuals from the injury and embarrassment that could result from an unnecessary disclosure of personal information.

In order to determine whether information should be withheld under exemption 6, an agency must (1) identify whether a privacy interest exists, (2) identify whether release of the document would further the public interest by shedding light on the operations and activities of the Government, and (3) weigh the identified privacy interests against the public interest as a whole in order to determine whether disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

BPA asserts exemption 6 for the names of private citizens who contacted their congressional representatives to assist them in dealing with BPA on personal matters.

First, we have determined that a privacy interest exists in this type of information because individuals who write to the government expressing personal opinions generally do so with some expectation of confidentiality.

Second, although the substance of the letters themselves may be of public interest, the release of the identities, home addresses, personal phone numbers, or e-mail addresses of the individuals who wrote the letters would not shed any light on the operations and activities of the Government.

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you may make an appeal within thirty (30) days of your receipt of this letter to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20585. Both the envelope and letter must be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

You have agreed to pay fees to fulfill this request. Search and review costs for this FOIA totaled \$534.46. However, the estimate we provided to you was \$400. Therefore, you will be sent an invoice in the amount of \$400.00 under separate cover by our accounting department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annie Eissler".

Annie Eissler
Freedom of Information Act Officer