



## Department of Energy

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

SECURITY AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

August 9, 2013

In reply refer to: NN-1

Dan Seligman  
Columbia Research Corporation  
PO Box 99249  
Seattle, WA 98139

### FOIA #BPA-2013-01449-F

Dear Mr. Seligman:

Thank you for your request for records that you made to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. Your request was officially received in this office on Wednesday, August 7, 2013, and has been assigned a control number, BPA-2013-01449-F. Please use this number in any correspondence with the Agency about your request.

#### **You requested the following:**

- “1. All communications between BPA and the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") since May 11, 2010 (when President Obama issued his memorandum Improving the Federal Recruitment and Hiring Process) that describe BPA's compliance with the President's memorandum. This request includes progress reports on how BPA is (or is not) implementing the category rating system described in the memorandum.
2. All communications since January 1, 2012 between BPA and DOE regarding:
  - a) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's hiring and position classification authority.
  - b) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's authority to perform competitive staff recruitments.
  - c) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's merit promotion authority.
3. All communications since January 1, 2012, between BPA and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management regarding:
  - a) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's hiring and position classification authority.
  - b) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's authority to perform competitive staff recruitments.
  - c) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's merit promotion authority.

4. All communications since January 1, 2012, between BPA and DOE regarding the suspension of authority to take adverse actions against BPA employees (i.e., removal). I do not want the names of individual employees. I would, however, like to receive a copy of the suspension notice(s) and the reasons for the suspension.”

We have reviewed your request and have determined that it addresses all of the criteria of a proper request under the FOIA, DOE, and BPA regulation that implements the FOIA at Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1004.

Fees are waived for this subject matter.

BPA has twenty (20) working days to respond to your request. The due date for a response to you is Friday, September 6, 2013.

Please contact Kim Winn, FOIA Specialist, at 503-230-5273 with any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

*For /s/Kim S. Winn*

Christina J. Munro

Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer



## Department of Energy

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

SECURITY AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

September 10, 2013

In reply refer to: NN-1

Dan Seligman  
Columbia Research Corporation  
PO Box 99249  
Seattle, WA 98139

### FOIA #BPA-2013-01449-F

Dear Mr. Seligman:

BPA is taking an allowed ten working-day extension starting Friday, September 6, 2013, in order to complete your Freedom of Information Act request.

#### **You requested the following:**

- “1. All communications between BPA and the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") since May 11, 2010 (when President Obama issued his memorandum “Improving the Federal Recruitment and Hiring Process”) that describe BPA's compliance with the President's memorandum. This request includes progress reports on how BPA is (or is not) implementing the category rating system described in the memorandum.
2. All communications since January 1, 2012 between BPA and DOE regarding:
  - a) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's hiring and position classification authority.
  - b) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's authority to perform competitive staff recruitments.
  - c) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's merit promotion authority.
3. All communications since January 1, 2012, between BPA and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management regarding:
  - a) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's hiring and position classification authority.
  - b) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's authority to perform competitive staff recruitments.
  - c) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's merit promotion authority.
4. All communications since January 1, 2012, between BPA and DOE regarding the suspension of authority to take adverse actions against BPA employees (i.e., removal). I do not want the names of individual employees. I would, however, like to receive a copy of the suspension notice(s) and the reasons for the suspension.”

The new target date for your response is Friday, September 20, 2013.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you. Please contact our office at 503-230-7305 with any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

*/s/Christina J. Munro*

Christina J. Munro

Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer



## Department of Energy

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

SECURITY AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

December 17, 2013

In reply refer to: NN-1

Dan Seligman  
Columbia Research Corporation  
PO Box 99249  
Seattle, WA 98139

RE: Freedom of Information Act Requests

Dear Mr. Seligman:

Per your request, I have analyzed the four outstanding Freedom of Information Act requests you submitted, and determined they meet the "unusual circumstances" criteria for FOIA requests (5 USC 552(a)(6)(B)(1)). Here, the unusual circumstances are the voluminous amount of data involved in processing and reviewing the requests. Also as required by FOIA, I am informing you that you have the opportunity to modify your request.

I am providing you with the revised release dates (below). I assure you I will make every effort to finalize and release the responsive records to your requests before the stated deadlines.

**You requested the following:**

**BPA-2013-01404-F** – "Washington 2 Advocates contract, invoices, work product, and correspondence with BPA since July 11, 2012." **February 28, 2014.**

**BPA-2013-01448** – "All other audits and investigation reports since October 1, 2009, related to the operation of BPA's Human Capital Management office. The term "audit" includes internal audits conducted by BPA staff...and BPA contractors (e.g., AVUE Technologies)." **January 15, 2014.**

**BPA-2013-01449** –

"1. All communications between BPA and the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") since May 11, 2010, (when President Obama issued his memorandum *Improving the Federal Recruitment and Hiring Process*) that describe BPA's compliance with the President's memorandum. This request includes progress reports on how BPA is (or is not) implementing the category rating system described in the memorandum.

2. All communications since January 1, 2012, between BPA and DOE regarding:

- a) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's hiring and position classification authority.
- b) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's authority to perform competitive staff recruitments.
- c) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's merit promotion authority.

3. All communications since January 1, 2012, between BPA and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management regarding:

- a) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's hiring and position classification authority.
- b) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's authority to perform competitive staff recruitments.
- c) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's merit promotion authority.

4. All communications since January 1, 2012, between BPA and DOE regarding the suspension of authority to take adverse actions against BPA employees (i.e., removal). I do not want the names of individual employees. I would, however, like to receive a copy of the suspension notice(s) and the reasons for the suspension.” **March 31, 2014.**

**BPA-2013-01453 –**

“1. All meeting materials (e.g., agenda, handouts and notes), videos and tape recordings of a BPA Human Capital Management staff meeting on February 20, 2008, in the GSA auditorium in which internal BPA hiring issues (including veterans preferences) were discussed. **Released**

2. All meeting materials (e.g., agenda, handouts and notes), videos and tape recordings of a BPA Human Capital Management staff meeting on May 7, 2008, in which internal BPA hiring issues (including veterans preferences) were discussed. **Released**

3. All follow-up e-mails from BPA vice president Kim Leathley and Human Resources Officer Roy Fox to each other and/or to BPA staff regarding the February 20 and May 7 meetings (e.g., directing or suggesting that staff take certain actions discussed at the meetings).” **March 15, 2014.**

**BPA-2014-00042-F –**

“1. A copy of the RFP used by BPA to select Avue Technologies. **Released**

2. A copy of the Avue Technologies contract (including the scope of work). **April 15, 2014**

3. Records, including emails, from BPA to Avue Technologies directing, permitting or approving Avue Technologies to prepare the September 27, 2013, report entitled “BPAs DOE/OPM DE Audit Analysis and Recommendations”.” **January 15, 2014**

As we have related before, we have brought on two new staff to assist with the large volume of simple (small volume, no external review required) and complex (voluminous records, and/or external review required (i.e., contracts, other agency documents)) and then are processing on a “first in, first out” basis in each track.

Again, your patience is appreciated.

Please contact me at 503-230-7303 with any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

*/s/Christina J. Munro*

Christina J. Munro

Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer



## Department of Energy

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT/PRIVACY PROGRAM

January 31, 2014

In reply refer to: D-1

Dan Seligman  
Columbia Research Corporation  
P.O. Box 99249  
Seattle, WA 98139

Dear Mr. Seligman:

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act requests received as listed below. In our letter dated December 17, 2013, we notified you that we would not be able to complete the listed requests within the normal statutory timeframe.

### **You requested:**

**BPA-2013-01404-F** – “Washington 2 Advocates contract, invoices, work product, and correspondence with BPA since July 11, 2012.”

**BPA-2013-01448-F** – “All other audits and investigation reports since October 1, 2009, related to the operation of BPA’s Human Capital Management office. The term "audit" includes internal audits conducted by BPA staff...and BPA contractors (e.g., AVUE Technologies).”

**BPA-2013-01449-F** –

“1. All communications between BPA and the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") since May 11, 2010 (when President Obama issued his memorandum Improving the Federal Recruitment and Hiring Process) that describe BPA's compliance with the President's memorandum. This request includes progress reports on how BPA is (or is not) implementing the category rating system described in the memorandum.

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- b) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's authority to perform competitive staff recruitments.
- c) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's merit promotion authority.

3. All communications since January 1, 2012, between BPA and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management regarding:

- a) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's hiring and position classification authority.

b) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's authority to perform competitive staff recruitments.

c) the revocation, withdrawal or suspension of BPA's merit promotion authority.

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**BPA-2013-01453 –**

“1. All meeting materials (e.g., agenda, handouts and notes), videos and tape recordings of a BPA Human Capital Management staff meeting on February 20, 2008, in the GSA auditorium in which internal BPA hiring issues (including veterans preferences) were discussed. **Released**

2. All meeting materials (e.g., agenda, handouts and notes), videos and tape recordings of a BPA Human Capital Management staff meeting on May 7, 2008, in which internal BPA hiring issues (including veterans preferences) were discussed. **Released**

3. All follow-up e-mails from BPA vice president Kim Leathley and Human Resources Officer Roy Fox to each other and/or to BPA staff regarding the February 20 and May 7 meetings (e.g., directing or suggesting that staff take certain actions discussed at the meetings).”

Our new target date for the listed responses to you is March 31, 2014. We will keep you updated on our progress.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Kim Winn, Government Information Specialist, at (503) 230-7305.

Sincerely,

Christina J. Munro  
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Officer

/s/Christina J. Munro



## Department of Energy

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT/PRIVACY PROGRAM

April 1, 2014

In reply refer to: D-B1

Dan Seligman  
Columbia Research Corporation  
PO Box 99249  
Seattle, WA 98139

### FOIA #BPA-2013-01449-F

Dear Mr. Seligman:

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act request dated August 7, 2013. In our letter dated January 31, 2014, we notified you that we would not be able to complete the request within the normal statutory timeframe.

#### **You requested:**

"1. All communications between BPA and the U.S. Department of Energy ("DOE") since May 11, 2010, (when President Obama issued his memorandum Improving the Federal Recruitment and Hiring Process) that describe BPA's compliance with the President's memorandum. This request includes progress reports on how BPA is (or is not) implementing the category rating system described in the memorandum.

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individual employees. I would, however, like to receive a copy of the suspension notice(s) and the reasons for the suspension.”

When searching for records requested under the Freedom of Information Act, it is not uncommon to locate a responsive document or portions of responsive documents that originated outside of the agency.

Generally, the agency in possession of such records is responsible for making any FOIA disclosure determination that might be required. However, the agency that originated a record or portions thereof may be better able to determine whether the information is exempt from disclosure. BPA has determined that portions of records responsive to your request originated with the Office of Personnel Management, and that it is necessary to consult with OPM before making a final determination.

The consultations, while necessary, will unavoidably delay your FOIA response. BPA now estimates it will be able to finalize your FOIA request(s) by Monday, July 28, 2014.

We apologize for any inconvenience. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Kim Winn, FOIA Public Liaison, at (503) 230-5273.

Sincerely,

*/s/Christina J. Munro*

Christina J. Munro

Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer