



Department of Energy

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT/PRIVACY PROGRAM

April 8, 2014

In reply refer to: D-B1

Ted Sickinger
The Oregonian
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, OR 97201

FOIA #BPA-2014-00507-F

Dear Mr. Sickinger:

This is a final response to your request for Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Your request was originally received in our office on July 17, 2013. Per a conversation with you on January 22, 2014, this is a release of information to an amended version of that request.

You requested:

Your initial request was for “all e-mail to and from Steve Wright between Jan. 1, 2010, and present day that mention the Office of Inspector General, (OIG) the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) or DOE Human Capital, or any inquiries, reviews and investigations into BPA hiring and promotion practices.” Upon contact by this office, you agreed to create a special request for electronic copies of all email to and from Steve Wright between January 1, 2010, and present day, concerning the Chief Public Affairs Officer recruitment. This is the response to that separate request.

Response:

We have located 10 pages of material responsive to your request. We are releasing one page in full and releasing nine pages with redactions for non-responsiveness or protection under Exemption 6.

The Freedom of Information Act generally requires the release of all government records upon request. However, FOIA permits withholding certain, limited information that falls under one or more of nine statutory exemptions (5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(1-9)).

Exemption 6 of the FOIA authorizes the withholding of agency records containing the names and addresses and other personal information of individuals. This exempts from disclosure information about individuals in “personnel and medical files and similar files” where the disclosure of such information “would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” The term “similar files” is read quite broadly, and the records you seek would be considered such files. The withheld information consists of the names of non-Federal individuals not chosen for the position,

personal contact information, including personal email addresses, and information regarding BPA personnel actions.

Exemption 6 requires balancing the public interest, if any, against the individual privacy interest at issue. The employees affected by disclosure have a significant privacy interest in the personal information contained therein in order to be free from possible unwanted intrusion into their personal lives. This information is not relative to the operations of the agency or the federal government, the core purpose of FOIA. Because no public interest relative to the core purpose of FOIA would be served by disclosure of this personal information, and because there is a viable privacy interest which would be threatened by such disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes the withholding of this material.

The personal information protected by Exemption 6 is not the type of information ordinarily considered appropriate for discretionary FOIA disclosure in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 1004.1. The right of privacy belongs to the individual, not to BPA. Therefore, we cannot discretionarily disclose this information, and did not analyze the information for discretionary disclosure.

I am the denying official for this request.

Pursuant to Department of Energy FOIA regulations at 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, you may challenge this decision or the adequacy of the search by appealing this response in writing within 30 calendar days. If you choose to appeal, please include the following:

- (1) The nature of your appeal - denial of records, partial denial of records, lack of responsive records, or denial of fee waiver;
- (2) Any legal authorities relied upon to support the appeal; and
- (3) A copy of the determination letter.

Clearly mark both your letter and envelope with the words "FOIA Appeal," and direct it to the following address:

Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals:
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20585-1615

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you. If you have any questions, 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

Enclosure

Message

From: Drummond, William K (BPA) - D-7 [/O=BPA/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BKD0000]
Sent: 9/27/2012 6:46:18 PM
To: ADL_DK_ALL [/O=BPA/OU=BPASite1/cn=Recipients/cn=ADL_DK_ALL]
CC: Executive Board [/O=BPA/OU=BPASite1/cn=Recipients/cn=ExecBoard]
Subject: CPAO Position Decision

Good Morning:

I wanted to let you know that I have decided to repost the recruitment for the Chief Public Affairs position. I have learned a tremendous amount about Public Affairs in the past year, its importance to the agency, and the evolving role of Public Affairs in our industry. Because of that I will be recrafting the knowledge, skills and abilities for the position and will begin a new recruitment process.

In the meantime I have asked Doug Marker to remain in the position, which he has agreed to do. He has done a terrific job under some very challenging conditions. He has my complete confidence and I have asked him to manage as if he is not in an acting position. For example, today there are a number of temporary appointments in Public Affairs and I have asked him to move forward to resolve some of that "temporary" condition and to get the department on a more solid footing over the next several months.

This last recruitment process took a tremendous amount of time and you have my commitment to move forward more quickly on this next recruitment effort. I can not give you a specific date at this time but I hope by the beginning of the calendar year we will have this next process completed. I have spoken to the managers in Public Affairs regarding my decision. If you have questions they will be available to you or you may contact me directly.

Regards,
Bill

William K. Drummond
Deputy Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
WKDrummond@bpa.gov
503-230-5103

Message

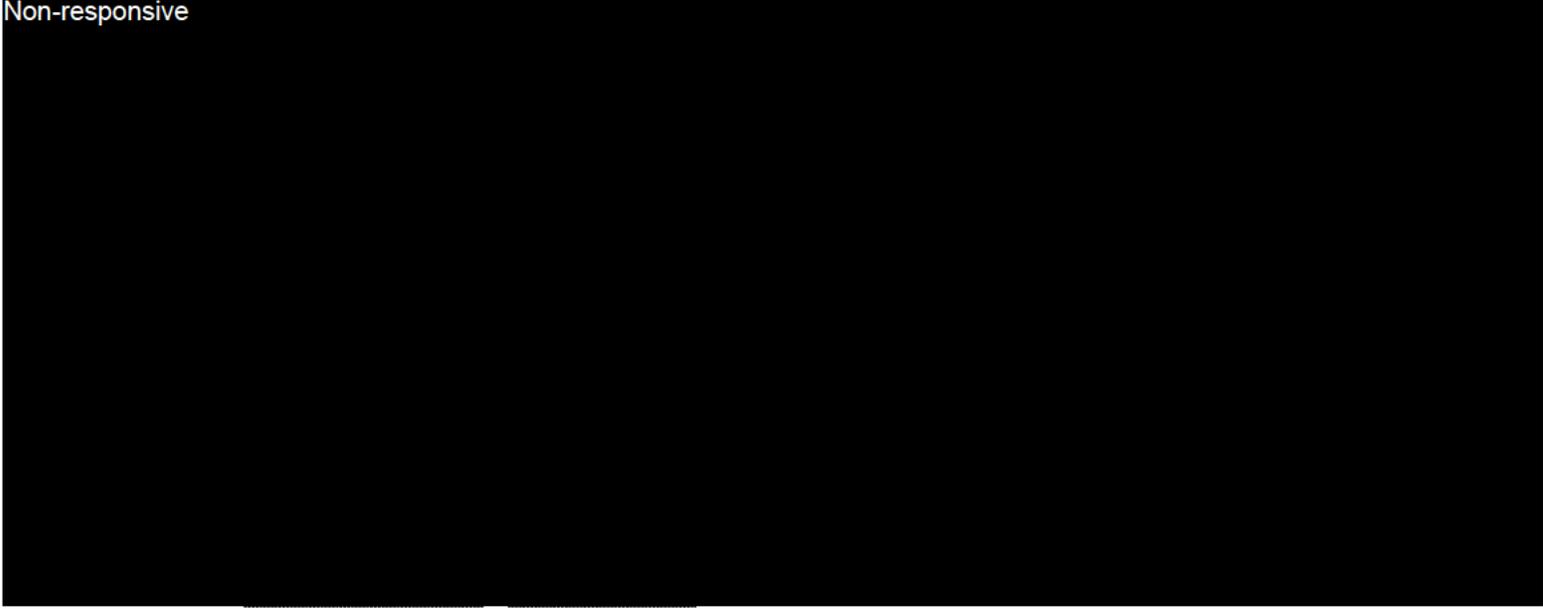
From: Wright, Stephen J (BPA) - A-7 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASITE1/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=SJW3819]
Sent: 10/16/2012 1:31:15 AM
To: Drummond, William K (BPA) - D-7 [/O=BPA/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BKD0000]
Subject: FW: (b) (6) Job Reference
Attachments: (b) (6)

You might call him to try to get him to apply for CPAO. I tried once before and it was a no, but maybe things have changed.

From: Boardman, Sandy (BPA) - A-7
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2012 6:28 PM
To: Wright, Stephen J (BPA) - A-7
Subject: FW: (b) (6) - Job Reference
Okay?

Sandy Boardman, A-7
Executive Offices
Bonneville Power Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
sxboardman@bpa.gov
503.230.5102

Non-responsive



Message

From: Boardman,Sandy (BPA) - A-7 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASITE1/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=SXB8806]
Sent: 5/23/2012 9:54:50 PM
To: Wright,Stephen J (BPA) - A-7 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASite1/cn=Recipients/cn=SJW3819]
Subject: (b) (6)

Hi Steve,

(b) (6) applied for the CPAO position and interviewed early in May. I was calling to schedule a follow-up discussion with you and she mentioned she would be in Denver next week at the Hydro Summit. Would you want to catch up with her while you are there or do you want me to schedule some time on the phone when you get back? Thanks.

Sandy Boardman, A-7
Executive Offices
Bonneville Power Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
sxboardman@bpa.gov
503.230.5102

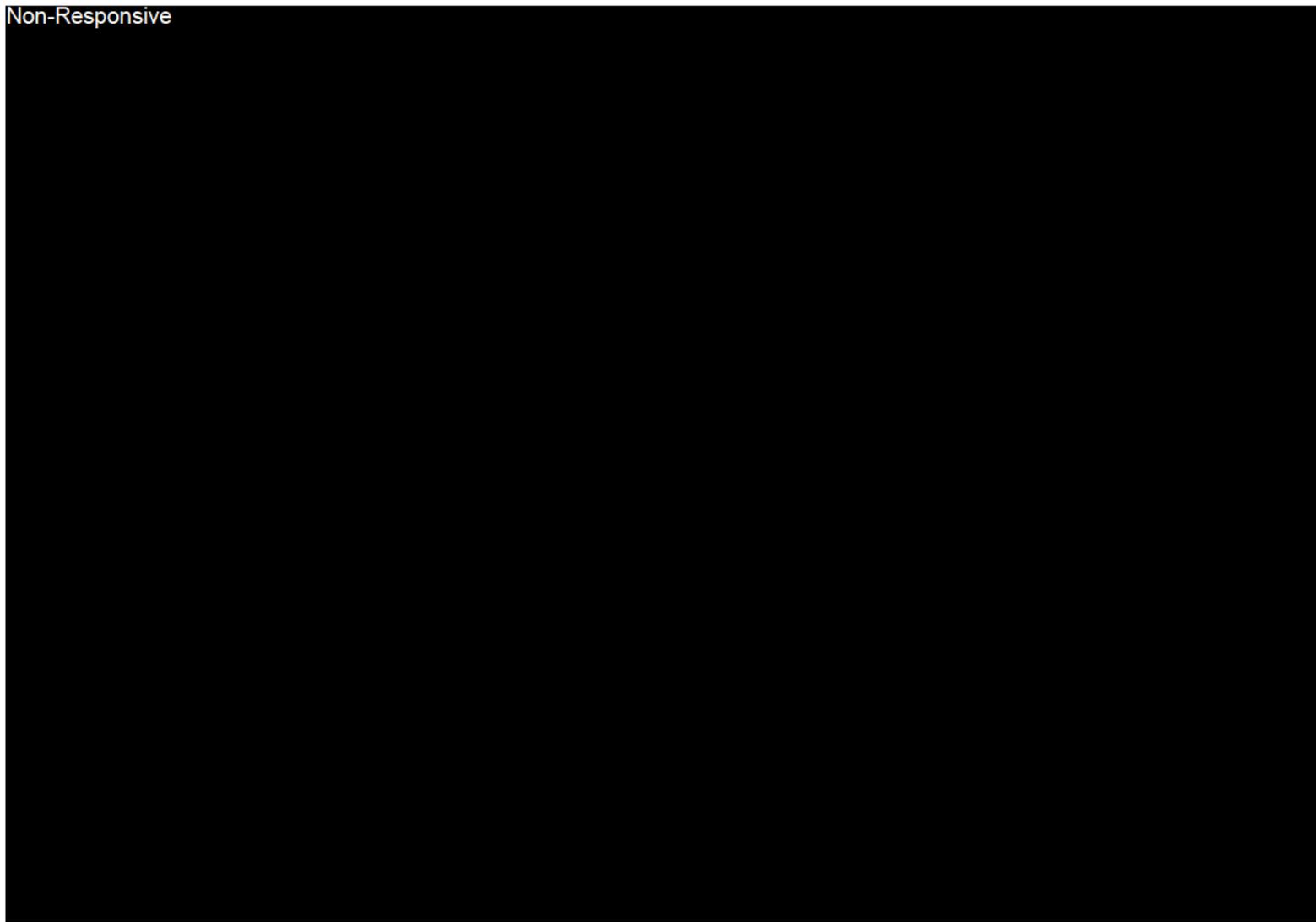
Message

From: Silverstein,Brian L (BPA) - T-DITT2 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASITE1/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BLS3449]
Sent: 5/3/2012 2:13:07 PM
To: Mainzer, Elliot E (BPA) - S-7 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASite1/cn=Recipients/cn=EEM5862]; Wright, Stephen J (BPA) - A-7 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASite1/cn=Recipients/cn=SJW3819]; Juj, Hardev S (BPA) - TP-DITT-2 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASite1/cn=Recipients/cn=HSJ5956]
CC: Elizeh, Edison G (BPA) - SR-7 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASite1/cn=Recipients/cn=EXG7544]
Subject: Re: Meeting with Allen Burns on Friday

I will not be at the meeting - I am participating in CPAO interviews. Hardev will attend. Hardev and I met w Allen a week ago to review the agenda.

Brian

Non-Responsive



Message

From: Cogswell, Peter (BPA) - DKR-7 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASITE1/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=PTC2324]
Sent: 2/28/2012 6:49:08 PM
To: Wright, Stephen J (BPA) - A-7 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASite1/cn=Recipients/cn=SJW3819]
Subject: Heads up: (b) (6) detail is ending

Steve:

I mentioned on the Monday call, but wanted to make sure you know that (b) (6) ends this week. I am currently talking to (b) (6) to take her place. (b) (6) comes recommended from a few different folks and has a technical writing background that should serve her well on the correspondence. (b) (6) tells me (b) (6) writes their more politically charged communications and documents and has a good antennae. She's also good with power point and showed good initiative in tracking me down to ask about it. Finally, she has some scheduling flexibility that is appealing given uncertain timing on decision around CPAO position.

Mainly, though, just didn't want you to be caught off guard with the change -- please let me know if you have concerns.

Thanks.

PTC

Peter Cogswell
Manager, Regional Relations
Bonneville Power Administration
(503) 230-5227 (office)
(b) (6)

Message

From: (b) (6)
Sent: 1/11/2012 2:58:13 PM
To: Wright, Stephen J (BPA) - A 7 [/O=BPA/OU=BPASite1/cn=Recipients/cn=SJW3819]
Subject: Fwd: For the Good of the Order
Attachments: Foxfire.doc; ATT00001..htm

Begin forwarded message:

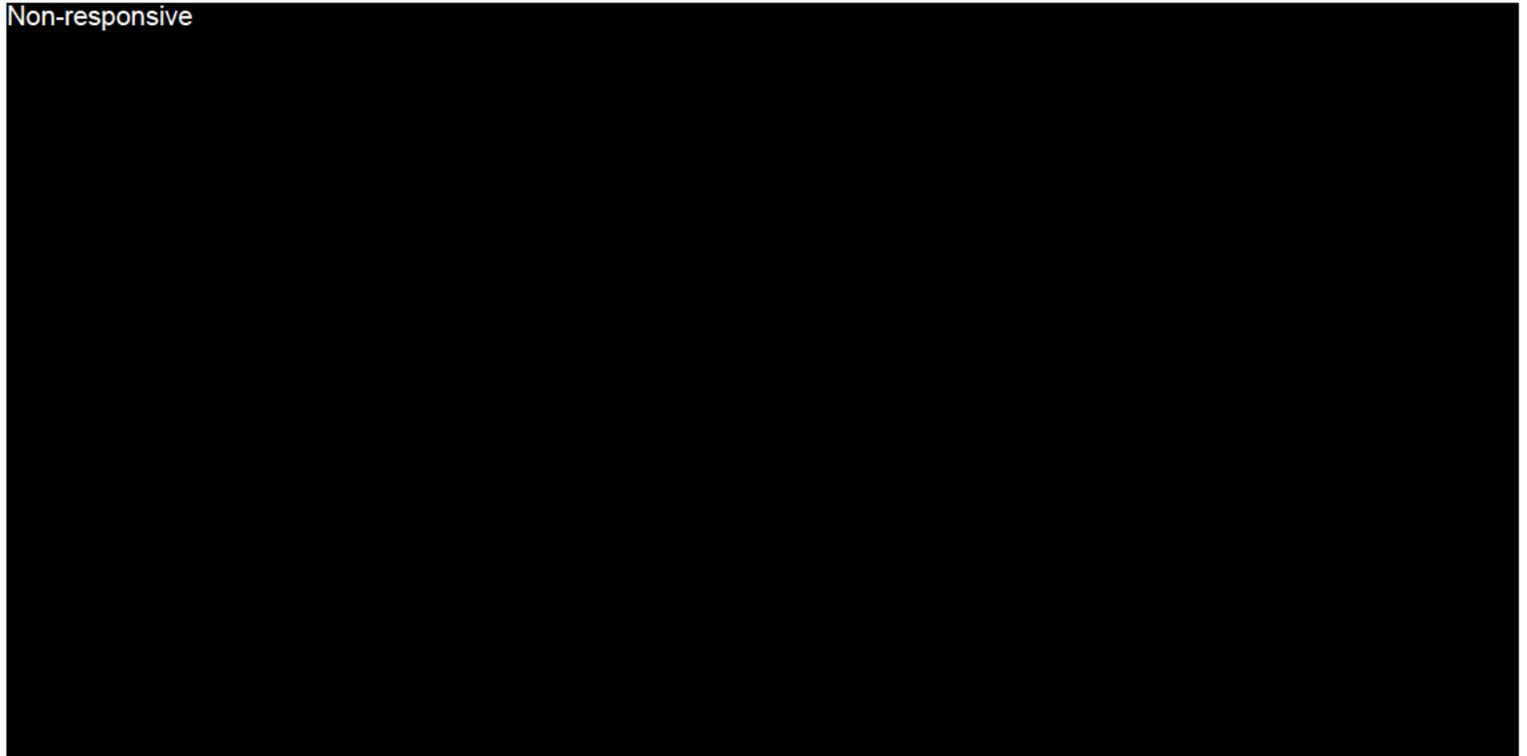
From: (b) (6) and Steve Hickok (b) (6)
Subject: For the Good of the Order
Date: January 10, 2012 1:09:35 PM PST
To: (b) (6) and Steve" (b) (6), (b) (6)
Reply-To: "(b) (6) and Steve Hickok" (b) (6)

I heard when I was at the (b) (6) send-off that BPA is now advertising the CPAO position. As I mentioned, below, my guy is not who you would want in that position, but turnover at the top is an opportunity to leaven the organization with some potent yeast.

Why don't you do something radical, and go get him?

Steve
(b) (6)

Non-responsive



Non-responsive

----- Original Message -----

From: (b) (6)

To: (b) (6) and Steve Hickok

Sent: Friday, December 02, 2011 7:05 AM

Subject: Re: Confidential

Wow, this is from a while ago. I wish I had known about it at the time.

A couple of questions - is the inquiry specific to this person or is it a more general concern about the hiring practice?

Soon we will be posting the CPA Officer (could be already - I'm just not sure at this moment) which may create an opening. Else, I don't know that there is something else coming up in PA.

Otherwise, how are you?

Non-responsive

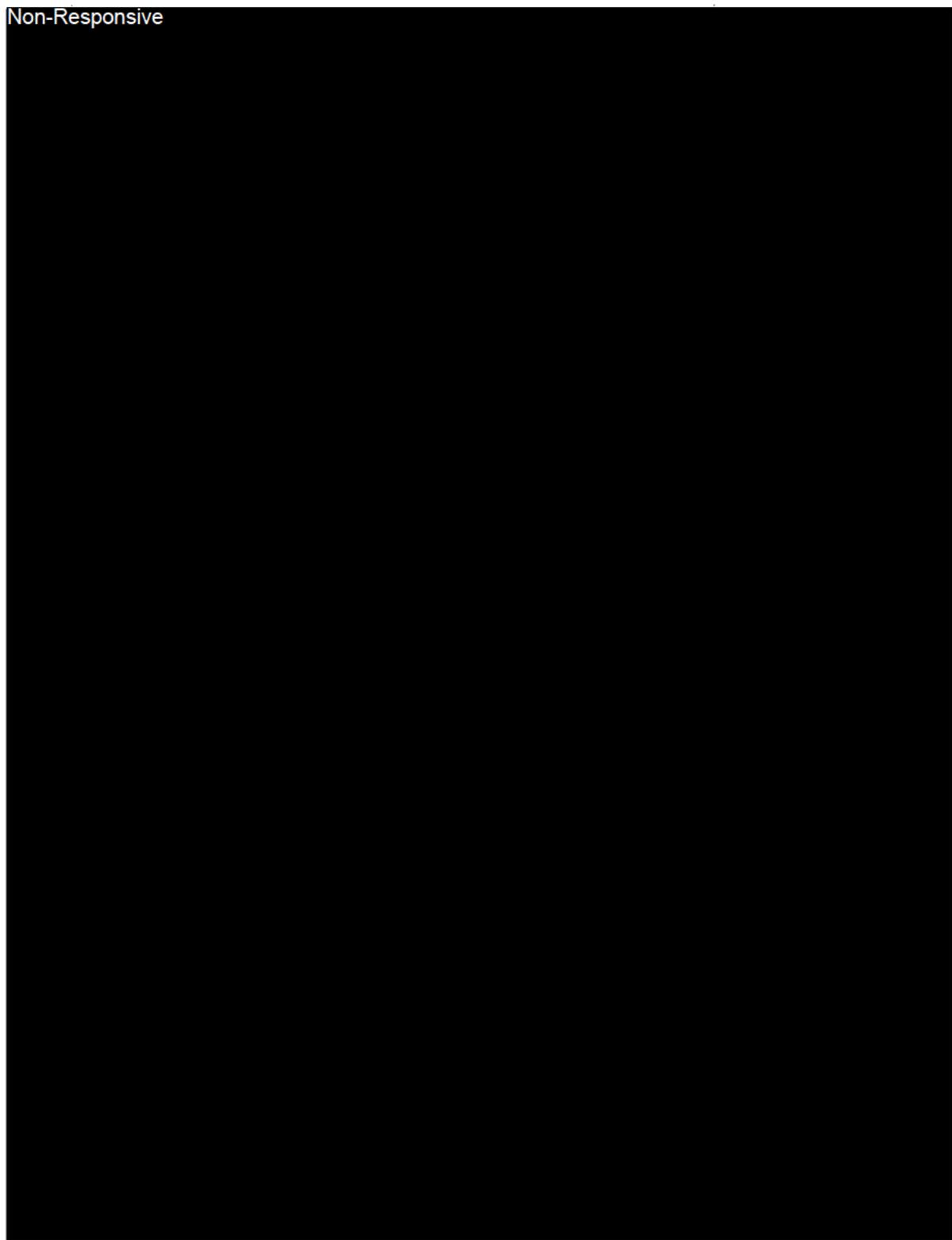
Non-responsive



Confidential – Do not duplicate or forward

Steve,

Non-Responsive



Non-Responsive

