



## Department of Energy

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT/PRIVACY PROGRAM

June 3, 2015

In reply refer to: FOIA #BPA-2015-01342-F

Rose Anderson  
McCullough Research  
6123 SE Reed College Place  
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Ms. Anderson:

We have received your request for records under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552). Thank you for your interest in the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Your request was received in this office on May 21, 2015, and has been assigned control number **BPA-2015-01342-F**. Please use this number in any correspondence with the agency about your request.

### **You requested:**

“... a copy of the ‘intensive study performed by BPA Finance Staff in which public utilities across North America were surveyed about their discount theory and practice.’ (Referenced on page 4 of this BPA document:  
<https://www.bpa.gov/Finance/FinancialPublicProcesses/CapitalInvestmentReview/2014CIRDocuments/2014%20CIR%20Workshop%20Follow%20Ups.pdf>)”

We have reviewed your letter and determined that it addresses all of the criteria of a proper request under the FOIA and the Department of Energy’s FOIA regulations at Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1004.

You have agreed to pay \$50.00 in fees.

### **Complex requests:**

FOIA requires that we act on requests “promptly” and that we make a determination on your request and respond within 20 working days (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)). The Bonneville Power Administration has instituted multi-track processing, as permitted by FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(D)(i)). Simple requests and complex requests are placed in two different queues, and each queue is processed on its own first-in, first-out basis. Requests are placed in the complex queue if they will require significant agency time or resources to process.

**Unusual/exceptional circumstances:**

Under FOIA, an agency may extend the normal 20-day deadline by an additional ten business days if “unusual circumstances” exist (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)). Unusual circumstances include the need to search records located in field facilities, requests for a voluminous amount of records, and requests that require consultation with other agencies or agency components including Department of Energy headquarters. If an agency cannot fulfill the request within the 30 working days provided by the extended deadline, agencies must (a) notify the requester and (b) work with the requester to modify or limit the scope of the request or arrange an alternative time frame for processing (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(ii)).

In our short time of gathering the requested documents, it has become apparent that some of the information contained within is not agency information and will require consultation with outside entities which could take this request beyond the 20-day deadline. Therefore, we currently estimate the completion of your request by August 14, 2015.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Cushnie, Case Coordinator (BPA Contractor, ACS) at (503) 230-5986 or via email at [cacushnie@bpa.gov](mailto:cacushnie@bpa.gov).

Sincerely,



C. M. Frost  
Freedom of Information Act Officer