



## Department of Energy

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROGRAM

February 23, 2016

In reply refer to: FOIA #BPA-2016-00303-F

Dale Church

(b)(6)

Mr. Church:

This is a final response to your request for Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) records under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552. Your request was received in our office on December 16, 2015, with an acknowledgement letter sent to you on December 17, 2015. In a letter dated January 20, 2016, BPA took the allowed 10-working day extension. In a letter dated February 22, 2016, BPA provided you with a new target date of Friday, March 4, 2016.

### **You requested:**

“Please provide the step 5, End-of-Step test for the Power System Control; craftsman-in-training given June 2015; and the dramatically different and unfair test given December 2015 to the individuals who failed the June 2015 test.”

### **Response:**

We conducted a search of the records of Transmission Technical Training office. We have located 27 pages of material responsive to your request. We withholding 27 pages in their entirety under Exemption (b)(2) of the FOIA.

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 (b)(2) permits withholding of material “related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency” (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(2)). This exemption is limited to records related solely to personnel rules and practices, and used internally (not shared outside the agency). BPA uses these records to test and accredit people to work on BPA’s Communications and Control Grid. The records meet the criteria for Exemption (b)(2).

Records protected by Exemption (b)(2) may be discretionarily released. We considered discretionary release in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Attorney General Holder’s March 19, 2009, FOIA Memorandum. We have determined that these records should not be

discretionarily released because BPA may continue to use them for internal testing purposes in the future. Therefore, we are withholding these records under Exemption (b)(2).

There are no fees associated with this request.

**Appeal:**

Pursuant to Department of Energy FOIA regulations at 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, you may administratively appeal 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, adequacy of search, 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, Case Coordinator, at 503-230-5273.

Sincerely,



C. M. Frost  
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer