



Department of Energy

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT/PRIVACY PROGRAM

August 18, 2016

In reply refer to: FOIA #BPA-2016-01312-F

Patrick Malone
Center for Public Integrity
910 17th St. NW, Seventh Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Malone:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has received your request for records under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552). Your request was received in this office on July 21, 2016 as a transfer from the Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Inspector General (OIG), and has been assigned tracking number BPA-2016-01312-F. Please use this number in any correspondence with the agency regarding your request.

Request

"Pertaining to the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General Special Report (DOE/IG-09-46) titled "The Department of Energy's Freedom of Information Act Process" issued publicly on September 18, 2015, any and all records reviewed in the course of generating this report, including but not limited to Freedom of Information Act requests, responses and internal and external materials related to these requests and responses by the Department of Energy, its contractors and/or any other government entity; internal and external communications such as emails, memos, notes, video, recordings, photographs; and memos, notes, or correspondence internal and external pertaining to draft versions of this report."

Acknowledgement

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

Fee

FOIA fees are waived.

Complex Requests

The FOIA requires that BPA 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)). However, BPA has instituted multi-track processing, as permitted by the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(D)(i)). In accord with this process, 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 require significant agency time or resources to process. We have determined that a response to your request may require a review for statutory exemptions and consultations with possible third parties. We have therefore designated your request as complex.

Unusual/Exceptional Circumstances

Under the FOIA, an agency may extend the response time 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 agency components. We have determined that a response to your request may possibly require consultation with other agency components. We have therefore determined that your request involves unusual circumstances.

In light of the above conditions and determinations, we currently estimate the completion of your request by September 30, 2016.

If you have questions about this communication you may contact James King (CorSource Technology Group, Inc.), assigned to the BPA FOIA office, at 503-230-7621.

Sincerely,



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

CC:

Ms. Patricia Hance
OIG Government Information Specialist
IG-1, Room 5A-240
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request No. HQ-2016-00036-F from Patrick
Malone, Center for Public Integrity