

## § 706.32

must state that you are requested records under the FOIA. Your request is considered received by OPIC upon actual receipt by OPIC's FOIA Office.

(b) *Format.* Although FOIA requests do not need to follow a specific format, you must include the following information:

(1) You must reasonably describe the records you seek. This means that you must provide enough detail to enable OPIC personnel, using reasonable efforts, to locate the records. Whenever possible, your request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipient, and subject matter. Any request that does not reasonably describe the records sought will not be considered received by OPIC until the request is clarified. If your request does not reasonably describe the records you seek, OPIC will make reasonable efforts to contact you and tell you what additional information you need to provide in order to clarify your request. You then will have an opportunity to modify your request to meet the requirements of this section. Any time you spend clarifying your request (discussing your request with OPIC and preparing a revised request) is excluded from the 20 working-day period (or any extension of this period) that OPIC has to respond to your request.

(2) You must state the format (e.g., paper, computer disk, etc.) in which you would like OPIC to provide the requested records. If you do not state a preference, you will receive any released records in the format most convenient to OPIC.

(3) You must include your mailing address and telephone number. You may also provide your electronic mail address, which will allow OPIC to contact you quickly to discuss your request and, in some instances, to respond to your request electronically.

(4) You must state your willingness to pay fees under this Part or, alternately, your willingness to pay fees up to a specified limit. If you believe that you qualify for a partial or total fee waiver under § 706.35(a), you should request a waiver and provide justification as required by § 706.35(b). If your request does not contain a statement of your willingness to pay fees or a re-

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quest for a fee waiver, OPIC will advise you of the requirements of this paragraph. If you fail to respond within ten working days of such notification, OPIC will stop processing your request.

### § 706.32 When will I receive a response to my FOIA request?

(a) *General.* The FOIA requires OPIC to respond within twenty working days after the date on which OPIC's FOIA Office received the request.

(b) *Order of processing.* Generally, OPIC responds to FOIA requests in the order in which they are received.

(c) *Extensions.* (1) In unusual circumstances, OPIC may require an extension of time in which to respond to your request. OPIC will provide written notice to you whenever such unusual circumstances exist. Unusual circumstances may include, for example: The need to search for and collect requested records from storage facilities located outside of OPIC's premises; the need to search for, collect, and appropriately examine a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records that are requested in a single request; or the need for consultation with another agency having a substantial interest in the request. If the extension is expected to exceed ten working days, OPIC will offer you the opportunity to:

(i) Alter your request so that processing may be accelerated; or

(ii) Propose an alternative, feasible time frame for processing the request.

(2) When OPIC reasonably believes that multiple requests submitted by a requester, or by a group of requesters acting in concert, constitute a single request that would otherwise involve unusual circumstances, and the requests involve clearly related matters, such requests may be aggregated for purposes of this section.

(d) *Expedited processing.* OPIC will expedite processing of your FOIA request if you provide information indicating that one of the following factors is present: circumstances in which the lack of expedited treatment could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; or an urgent need to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if

the request is made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information. You may make a request for expedited processing at the time you submit your FOIA request or at any later time. If you make such a request, you must submit a statement, certified to be true and correct to the best of your belief, explaining in detail the basis for requesting expedited processing. OPIC will notify you of its determination concerning your request for expedited processing within ten days after the date of your request. You may appeal a denial of a request for expedited processing under the provisions at §706.36. OPIC will grant expedited consideration to any such appeal.

**§ 706.33 How will OPIC respond to my FOIA request?**

(a) *OPIC response.* You will be notified in writing once OPIC makes a determination concerning your request. OPIC will respond by providing the requested records to you in whole or in part and/or by denying your request in whole or in part, or by notifying you that OPIC will produce or withhold, in whole or in part, the requested records. If you owe fees, OPIC will respond to you after you have paid the fees.

(1) *Segregable records.* If OPIC determines that part(s) of a record are exempt from disclosure under the FOIA, any reasonably segregable part of the record will be provided to you after redaction of the exempt material. OPIC will mark or annotate any such record to show both the amount and the location of the redacted information wherever practicable. If segregation would render the record meaningless, OPIC will withhold the entire record.

(2) *Denials.* A denial is a determination to withhold any requested record in whole or in part, a determination that a requested record cannot be located, or a determination that what you requested is not a record subject to the FOIA. If OPIC denies all or part of your request, you will be provided:

- (i) The name, title, and signature of the person responsible for the determination;
- (ii) The statutory basis for non-disclosure;
- (iii) A statement that the denial may be appealed under §706.36 and a brief

description of the requirements of that section; and

(iv) If entire records or pages of records are withheld, an estimated volume of the amount of material withheld unless providing such an estimate would harm an interest protected by the FOIA exemption under which the denial is made.

(b) *Referrals to other government agencies.* If you request a record in OPIC's possession that was created or classified by another Federal agency, OPIC will promptly refer your request to that agency for direct response to you unless OPIC can determine by examining the record or by informal consultation with the originating agency that the record may be released in whole or part. OPIC will notify you of any such referral.

**§ 706.34 What, if any, fees will I be charged?**

(a) *General policy.* You generally will be charged for costs incurred by OPIC in complying with your FOIA request, in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section and as required or permitted by law. As explained more fully in paragraph (c) of this section, fees will vary according to your requester status.

(1) Search fees are \$16 per hour.

(2) Review fees are \$35 per hour.

(3) Duplication costs are \$.15 per page for photocopying, and direct costs for all other media (including any operator time involved).

(b) *Anticipated fees.* Your FOIA request must specifically state that you will pay all fees chargeable under this section or, alternatively, that you will pay fees up to a specified limit. If your request makes no reference to anticipated fees and your request is expected to involve fees of more than \$25, or OPIC estimates that the fees will exceed the dollar limit specified in your request, OPIC will promptly notify you of the estimated fees.

(c) *Uniform fee schedule.* Fees will be charged according to your requester status.

(1) *Commercial use requesters.* Commercial use requesters will be charged the cost of all time spent searching for and reviewing for release the requested records and for all duplication costs.