

if your request meets both of the following criteria:

- (1) The request is in the public interest (i.e., information likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the government); and
- (2) The request is not primarily in your commercial interest.

(b) All requests for fee waivers or reductions must be made at the time of the initial FOIA request. All requests must include the grounds for requesting the reduction or elimination of fees.

**§ 1250.60 How will NARA determine if I am eligible for a fee waiver for NARA operational records?**

(a) If you request a fee waiver, NARA will consider the following in reviewing how your request meets the public interest criteria in § 1250.58(a)(1):

- (1) How do the records pertain to the operations and activities of the Federal Government?
- (2) Will release reveal any meaningful information about Federal Government activities that is not already publicly known?
- (3) Will disclosure to you advance the understanding of the general public on the issue?
- (4) Do you have expertise in or a thorough understanding of these records?
- (5) Will you be able to disseminate this information to a broad spectrum of the public?
- (6) Will disclosure lead to a significantly greater understanding of the Government by the public?

(b) After reviewing your request and determining that there is a substantial public interest in release, NARA will also review it to determine if it furthers your commercial interests. If it does, you are not eligible for a fee waiver.

### Subpart D—Appeals

**§ 1250.70 What are my appeal rights under FOIA?**

You may appeal any of the following decisions:

- (a) The refusal to release a record, either in whole or in part;

(b) The determination that a record does not exist or cannot be found;

(c) The determination that the record you sought was not subject to the FOIA;

(d) The denial of a request for expedited processing; or

(e) The denial of a fee waiver request.

**§ 1250.72 How do I file an appeal?**

(a) All appeals must be in writing and received by NARA within 35 calendar days of the date of NARA's denial letter. Mark both your letter and envelope with the words "FOIA Appeal," and include a copy of your initial request and our denial.

(b) In your appeal, explain why we should release the records, grant your fee waiver request, or expedite the processing of your request. If we were not able to find the records you wanted, explain why you believe our search was inadequate. If we denied you access to records and told you that those records were not subject to FOIA, please explain why you believe the records are subject to FOIA.

**§ 1250.74 Where do I send my appeal?**

(a) If NARA's Inspector General denied your request, send your appeal to the Archivist of the United States, (ATTN: FOIA Appeal Staff), Room 4200, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

(b) Send all other appeals to the Deputy Archivist of the United States, (ATTN: FOIA Appeal Staff), Room 4200, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

(c) Denials under FOIA of access to national security information accessioned into the National Archives of the United States are made by designated officials of the originating or responsible agency or by NARA under a written delegation of authority. You must appeal determinations that records remain classified for reasons of national security to the agency with responsibility for protecting and declassifying that information. NARA will provide you with the necessary appeal information in those cases. You

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can find additional information on access to national security classified records at NARA in 36 CFR part 1254.

### § 1250.76 May I email my FOIA appeal?

Yes, you may submit a FOIA appeal via email to [http://www.archives.gov/global\\_pages/inquire\\_form.html](http://www.archives.gov/global_pages/inquire_form.html). You must put the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject line of your email message. The body of your message must contain the information in § 1250.72(b).

[66 FR 16376, Mar. 23, 2001, as amended at 67 FR 43253, June 27, 2002]

### § 1250.78 How does NARA handle appeals?

NARA will respond to your appeal within 20 working days after its receipt of the appeal by NARA. If we reverse or modify our initial decision, we will inform you in writing and reprocess your request. If we do not change our initial decision, our response to you will explain the reasons for our decision, any FOIA exemptions that apply, and your right to judicial review of our decision.

## Subpart E—Special Situations

### § 1250.80 How does a submitter identify records containing confidential commercial information?

When a person submits records that contain confidential commercial information to NARA, that person may state in writing that all or part of the records are exempt from disclosure under exemption (b)(4) of the FOIA.

### § 1250.82 How will NARA handle a FOIA request for confidential commercial information?

If NARA receives a FOIA request for records containing confidential commercial information or for records that we believe may contain confidential commercial information and if the information is less than 10 years old, we will follow these procedures:

(a) If, after reviewing the records in response to a FOIA request, we believe that the records may be opened, we will make reasonable efforts to inform the submitter of this. When the request is for information from a single or small number of submitters, NARA will send a notice via registered mail to the submitter's last known address.

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Our notice to the submitter will include a copy of the FOIA request and will tell the submitter the time limits and procedures for objecting to the release of the requested material.

(b) The submitter will have 5 working days from the receipt of our notice to object to the release and to explain the basis for the objection. The NARA FOIA Officer may extend this period for an additional 5 working days.

(c) NARA will review and consider all objections to release that are received within the time limit. If we decide to release the records, we will inform the submitter in writing. This notice will include copies of the records as we intend to release them and our reasons for deciding to release. We will also inform the submitter that we intend to release the records 10 working days after the date of the notice unless a U.S. District Court forbids disclosure.

(d) If the requester files a lawsuit under the FOIA for access to any withheld records, we will inform the submitter.

(e) We will notify the requester whenever we notify the submitter of the opportunity to object or to extend the time for objecting.

### § 1250.84 Service of subpoena or other legal demand for NARA operational records.

(a) A subpoena duces tecum or other legal demand for the production of NARA operational records must be addressed to the Office of the General Counsel (NGC), Room 3110, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD, 20740-6001.

(b) The Archivist of the United States and the General Counsel are the only NARA employees authorized to accept, on behalf of NARA, service of a subpoena duces tecum or other legal demands for NARA operational records.

(c) Regulations concerning service of a subpoena duces tecum or other legal demand for archival records accessioned into the National Archives of the United States, records of other agencies in the custody of the Federal records centers, and donated historical materials are located at 36 CFR 1254.8.