Ogbazghi, Joan

From: FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 11:58 AM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

MAR 10 2009
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Name: Judy Pasternak

Organization: Investigative Reporting Workshop, American University

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Record Description:

On the subject of [nuclear power, nuclear waste, specific nuclear plants or reactors, nuclear accidents and/or nuclear releases;]
--Any [correspondence, from January 1, 2001 to the present,] including but not limited to letters, memoranda, e-mails, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, notes, talking points, calendars, telephone messages or logs from U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan.
--Any correspondence from January 1, 2001 to the present, including but not limited to letters, memoranda, e-mails, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, notes, talking points, calendars, telephone messages or logs from U.S. Senator John McCain.
--Any correspondence from January 1, 2001 to the present, including but not limited to letters, memoranda, e-mails, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, notes, talking points, calendars, telephone messages or logs from U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel (including in his capacity since Jan. 20, 2009 as White House chief of staff).
--Any correspondence from January 1, 2001 to the present, including but not limited to letters, memoranda, e-mails, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, notes, talking points, calendars, telephone messages or logs from U.S. Senator Pete Domenici (including in his capacity as a private citizen since his retirement).
--Any correspondence from January 1, 2001 to the present, including but not limited to letters, memoranda, e-mails, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, notes, talking points, calendars, telephone messages or logs from U.S. Senator Barack Obama (including in his capacity before Jan. 20, 2004 as a state legislator from Illiniois).
--Any correspondence from January 1, 2001 to the present, including but not limited to letters, memoranda, e-mails, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, notes, talking points, calendars, telephone messages or logs from U.S. Senator Tom Carper.
--Any correspondence from January 1, 2001 to the present, including but not limited to letters, memoranda, e-mails, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, notes, talking points, calendars, telephone messages or logs from U.S. Senator Tom Carper.
--Any correspondence from January 1, 2001 to the present, including but not limited to letters, memoranda, e-mails, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, notes, talking points, calendars, telephone messages or logs from U.S. Senator Robert Bennett.

Preferred Form or Format: scanned onto disk

Type of Requester (if provided):

A representative of the news media affiliated with Investigative Reporting Workshop, American University (website) and the request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.

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Type of Media (if provided):

Other: non-profit website

Fees and Fee Waivers:

I request a waiver or reduction of fees.

Waiver or Reduction of Fees Factors (if provided):

1. The subject of the request: Whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government."

I'm looking at requests made by members of Congress on policy and implementation of policy regarding nuclear power

2. The informative value of the information to be disclosed: Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities.

The disclosure will contribute to an understanding of the way members of Congress interact with DOE on matters pertaining to nuclear energy.

3. The contribution to an understanding by the general public of the subject likely to result from disclosure, taking into account your ability and intent to disseminate the information to the public in a form that can further understanding of the subject matter.

The information is for an article and accompanying graphics that will be posted on the new Investigative Reporting Workshop website, a project sponsored by American University. I am an award-winning reporter with many decades of experience writing about energy and the environment.

4. The significance of the contribution to public understanding: Whether the disclosure is likely to contribute "significantly" to public understanding of government operations or activities.

Many questions about nuclear energy are coming to a head now and this project will contribute significantly to explaining how decisions on this important subject have been and are being made.

5. The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest: Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure, and, if so

no commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure

6. The primary interest in disclosure: Whether the magnitude of the identified commercial interest of the requester is sufficiently large, in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."

primary interest is public information

Expedited Processing:

I believe a compelling need exists to warrant expedited processing because there is:

an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity exists (this option available ONLY for requesters primarily engaged in disseminating information)

Specific Justification for Expedited Processing:

Many decisions about nuclear energy are coming to a head now, and it is imperative that the public understand how the various branches of government are making these decisions. This is a very timely topic and should be explained while decisions are made, rather than later.