

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission 100 F Street, NE Washington, DC 20549

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)
Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2010

(October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010)

ANNUAL FOIA REPORT

For Fiscal Year 2010

The following **Annual Freedom of Information Act** report covers the period 10/01/2009 through 09/30/2010 (FY10) as required by the FOIA at 5 U.S.C. 552(e)(1).

I. BASIC INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT

1. Questions concerning this report may be directed to:

Celia Winter Freedom of Information Act Officer U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) 100 F Street, NE Washington, DC 20549

- 2. This report is available on the SEC's Web site: http://www.sec.gov/foia/arfoia10.pdf
- 3. To obtain a paper copy of this report, send a letter to the FOIA Officer at the address above or via email to foiapa@sec.gov.

II. MAKING A FOIA REQUEST

A copy of our publication "How to make a FOIA Request" is available on the SEC web site: http://www.sec.gov/foia/howfo2.htm

1. Address of office that receives FOIA requests:

The Commission's FOIA Office is centralized. FOIA requests are considered received by the SEC only when they reach the Office of FOIA Services (see 17 CFR 200.80(d)(1) and (9)). Written requests should be submitted to the FOIA Officer at:

E-mail: <u>foiapa@sec.gov</u> Fax: 202-772-9336 or 9337

Mail: Office of FOIA Services, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

100 F Street, NE, Suite 2736 Washington, DC 20549

2. Description of why some requests are not granted: Many requests received by the SEC are for investigatory records, consumer complaints, and non-public correspondence. Some of these requests are denied because the records are related to on-going investigations (Exemption 7(A)), personal privacy (Exemptions 6 and 7(C)), and protected intra and inter-agency records (Exemption 5). The majority of FOIA requests to the Commission are from entities providing investor-related services such as due diligence and background checks on companies, investment advisors and broker-dealers or providing services that offer registration-related fillings, or evidence of investigative proceedings. These requests often result in a finding of no records or "no information found" which is the most common disposition for requests to the Commission.

III. ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS

- 1. Provide any agency-specific acronyms or terms used in this Report.
- 2. Include the following definitions of terms used in this Report:
 - a. **Administrative Appeal** a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a FOIA determination made by the agency at the initial request level.
 - b. **Average Number** the number obtained by dividing the sum of a group of numbers by the quantity of numbers in the group. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the average number is 8.
 - c. **Backlog** the number of requests or administrative appeals that are pending at an agency at the end of the fiscal year that are beyond the statutory time period for a response.
 - d. **Component** for agencies that process requests on a decentralized basis, a "component" is an entity, also sometimes referred to as an Office, Division, Bureau, Center, or Directorate, within the agency that processes FOIA requests. The FOIA now requires that agencies include in their Annual FOIA Report data for both the agency overall and for each principal component of the agency.
 - e. **Consultation** the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another agency for its review because that other agency has an interest in the document. Once the agency in receipt of the consultation finishes its review of the record, it responds back to the agency that forwarded it. That agency, in turn, will then respond to the FOIA requester.
 - f. **Exemption 3 Statute** a federal statute that exempts information from disclosure and which the agency relies on to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of the FOIA.
 - g. **FOIA Request** a FOIA request is generally a request to a federal agency for access to records concerning another person (i.e., a "third-party" request), or concerning an organization, or a particular topic of interest. FOIA requests also include requests made by requesters seeking records concerning themselves (i.e., "first-party" requests) when those requesters are not subject to the Privacy Act, such as non-U.S. citizens. Moreover, because all first-party requesters should be afforded the benefit of both the access provisions of the FOIA as well as those of the Privacy Act, FOIA requests also include any first-party requests where an agency determines that it must search beyond its Privacy Act "systems of records" or where a Privacy Act exemption applies, and the agency looks to FOIA to afford the greatest possible access. All requests which require the agency to utilize the FOIA in responding to the requester are included in this Report. Additionally, a FOIA request includes records referred to the agency for processing and direct response to the requester. It does not, however, include records for which the agency has received a consultation from another agency. (Consultations are reported separately in Section XII of this Report.)

- h. **Full Grant** an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.
- i. **Full Denial** an agency decision not to release any records in response to a FOIA request because the records are exempt in their entireties under one or more of the FOIA exemptions, or because of a procedural reason, such as when no records could be located.
- j. **Median Number** the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
- k. **Multi-Track Processing** a system in which simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more voluminous and complex requests are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are processed on a first in/first out basis.
 - i. **Expedited Processing** an agency will process a FOIA request on an expedited basis when a requester satisfies the requirements for expedited processing as set forth in the statute and in agency regulations.
 - ii. **Simple Request** a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (non-expedited) track based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.
 - iii. **Complex Request** a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the high volume and/or complexity of the records requested.
- I. **Partial Grant/Partial Denial** in response to a FOIA request, an agency decision to disclose portions of the records and to withhold other portions that are exempt under the FOIA, or to otherwise deny a portion of the request for a procedural reason.
- m. **Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal** a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.
- n. **Perfected Request** a request for records which reasonably describes such records and is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any) and procedures to be followed.
- o. **Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal** a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has taken final action in all respects.
- p. **Range in Number of Days** the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.
- q. **Time Limits** the time period in the statute for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily twenty working days from receipt of a perfected FOIA request).
- 3. Include the following concise descriptions of the nine FOIA exemptions:
 - a. **Exemption 1:** classified national defense and foreign relations information
 - b. **Exemption 2:** internal agency rules and practices
 - c. **Exemption 3:** information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law
 - d. **Exemption 4:** trade secrets and other confidential business information
 - e. **Exemption 5:** inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges

- f. **Exemption 6:** information involving matters of personal privacy
- g. **Exemption 7:** records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of those records (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual
- h. **Exemption 8:** information relating to the supervision of financial institutions
- j. **Exemption 9:** geological information on wells

IV. Exemption 3 Statutes

	A. For Initial Requests			
Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Relied upon	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency
15 U.S.C. § 80b-10(b)	Investment Advisors examinations or investigations	Y	1	1
15 U.S.C. § 78q(h)(5)	Associated persons of broker-dealers, government securities brokers or dealers, or municipal securities dealers.	Y	1	1
41 U.S.C. § 253(b)(m)	Contractor Proposals ₁	Y	2	2
41 U.S.C. § 423(d)	Proprietary or source selecting information about ongoing Federal Procurements	Y	1	1
42 U.S.C. § 247d-6b(d) ₂	Bioterrorism preparedness stockpiles 1	Y	4	4

	B. For Appeals									
Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Number of Times Relied upon per Component	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency						
15 U.S.C. § 80a-30(c)	Investment Company Examination	Υ	1	1						
15 U.S.C. § 78x(d)	Foreign Securities Authorities	Υ	1	1						

- 1. Revised section to reflect the type of information about the material withheld pursuant to Exemption 3.
- 2. Original cite, 42 U.S.C. § 300hh-12, was redesignated; See Pub L. 108-276 section 3(a)(1) dated 7/21/04.

V. FOIA REQUESTS

	A. Receiv	ed, Processed and Pend	ing FOIA Requests									
	Number of Number of Number of Number of											
	Requests Pending	Requests Received	Requests Processed in	Requests Pending as of								
	as of Start of Fiscal Year in Fiscal Year Fiscal Year End of Fiscal Year											
AGENCY	492	10461	10554	399								

	B.(1) Disposition of FOIA Requests All Processed Requests												
	Number	Number	Number of			Numb	er of Fu	II Denials B	ased on Re	easons			
	of	of	Full Denials				Oth	er than Exer	mptions				
	Full	Partial	Based on		·								
	Grants	Grants/	Exemptions										
		Partial											
		Denials											
					All Records		Fee		Improper		Duplicate		TOTAL
				Records	Referred	Withdrawn				Agency	•	*Explain in	
					to		Reason	Reasonably				chart below	
					Another			Described		1			
					Component				Reason				
					Or Agency								
AGENCY	1418	395	474	7481	37	168	72	27	17	23	89	353	10554

B.(2) Dispositi	B.(2) Disposition of FOIA Requests Other Reasons for Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									
Component	•	of Other Reasons for Denials from Chart B (1) of Times Those Reasons Were Relied upon	TOTAL							
AGENCY	Cancelled Referred to the web Records lost or destroyed Glomar Moot	60 106 184 2 1	353							

	B.(3) Disposition of FOIA Requests Number of Times Exemptions Applied													
	(b)(1) (b)(2) (b)(3) (b)(4) (b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(B) (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(D) (b)(7)(E) (b)(7)(F) (b)(8) (b)(9)													
AGENCY	0	17	9	87	159	228	479	0	191	4	4	0	66	0

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS

	A. Received	, Processed and Pending	g Administrative Appeals	
	Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
AGEN	Y 25	189	199	15

	B.	Disposition of Administrative	Appeals All Processed A	ppeals	
	Number Affirmed on Appeal	Number Partially Affirmed & Partially Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number Completely Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number of Appeals Closed for Other Reasons	TOTAL
AGENCY	106	15	52	26	199

	C.(1) Reasons for Denial on Appeal Number of Times Exemptions Applied													
	(b)(1) (b)(2) (b)(3) (b)(4) (b)(5) (b)(6) (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(B) (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(D) (b)(7)(E) (b)(7)(F) (b)(8) (b)(9)													
AGENCY	0	1	2	7	11	12	96	0	13	1	2	0	6	0

			C.(2) Reas	ons for	Denial on	Appeal -	- Reaso	ns Other th	an Exemp	tions	
	No Records	Records Referred at Initial Request Level	Request Withdrawn			_	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request or Appeal	Request in Litigation	• •	Other *Explain in chart below
AGENCY	13	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	10
			(C.(3) Rea	asons for	Denial o	n Appea	I Other Rea	sons		
			Description	n of Othe		or Denials easons We		rt C (2) & Nur upon	nber of Time	es	TOTAL
AGENC)	/ Moot 1	0									10

	C.(4) Response Time for Administrative Appeals										
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days							
AGENCY	11.00	47.80	0.00	1,262.00							

	C.(5) Ten Oldest Pending Administrative Appeals												
	10th Oldest 9th 8th 7th 6th 5th 4th 3rd 2nd Oldest Appeal												
	Appeal and									and Number of			
	Number of									Days Pending			
	Days Pending												
AGENCY	09/17/2010	09/08/2010	09/07/2010	09/07/2010	08/31/2010	08/30/2010	07/14/2010	07/08/2010	06/16/2010	05/11/2010			
AGENCI	9	16	17	17	21	22	55	59	74	99			

VII. FOIA REQUESTS: RESPONSE TIME FOR PROCESSED AND PENDING REQUESTS

	A. Processed Requests Response Time for All Processed Perfected Requests												
		SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Davs	Number Number Number Number			Median Number of Davs	Average Number of Davs	Lowest Number of Davs	Highest Number of Davs	Median Number of Davs	Average Number of Davs	Lowest Number of Davs	Highest Number of Days	
	UI Days	of Days	of Days	of Days	UI Days	UI Days	UI Days	UI Days	UI Days	UI Days	UI Days	UI Days	
AGENCY	7	18.38	0	411	563.5	553.33	3	1015	49	49	15	83	

	B. Processed Requests Response Time for Perfected Requests in Which Information Was Granted											
	SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
AGENCY	29	41.98	0	289	812.5	812.5	760	865	0	0	0	0

					C. Pro	ocessed	Request	s Respor	se Time	in Day Ind	crements				
	Simple Requests														
	< 1 Day		21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
<i>AGENCY</i>	335	7625	1230	563	260	229	118	64	46	26	11	29	0	1	10537
	Complex Requests														
	< 1 Day	_		41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	_
AGENCY	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	12
		•				F	Requests Gi	ranted Exp	edited Proc	essing					
	< 1 Day			41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	
AGENCY	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

	D. Pending Requests All Pending Perfected Requests										
		SIMPLE			COMPLEX		EXPE	EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days		
AGENCY	283	21	41	18	0	117	1	111	111		

	E. Pending Requests Ten Oldest Pending Perfected Requests										
	10th Oldest 9th 8th 7th 6th 5th 4th 3rd 2nd Oldest Reques										
Request and and Numl									and Number of		
	Number of Days Pending										
	Days Pending										
AGENCY	07/28/2009	07/17/2009	07/01/2009	05/14/2009	01/12/2009	12/17/2008	12/08/2008	09/02/2008	08/20/2008	07/12/2006	
AGENCI	296	303	314	347	433	449	456	522	530	1060	

VIII. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING AND REQUESTS FOR FEE WAIVER

	A. Requests for Expedited Processing											
	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days							
AGENCY	4	7	11.5	17.61	7							

	B. Requests for Fee Waiver										
	Number	Number	Median	<i>Average</i>							
	Granted Denied Number of Number of										
			Days to	Days to							
	Adjudicate Adjudicate Adjudicate										
AGENCY	2	1	0	15							

IX. FOIA PERSONNEL AND COSTS

		PERSONNEL		COSTS				
	Number of Full-Time FOIA Employees	Number of Equivalent Full-Time FOIA Employees	Total Number of Full-Time FOIA Staff		Litigation- Related Costs	Total Costs		
AGENCY	28	14	42	\$6,032,377	\$394,831	\$6,427,208		

X. FEES COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS

	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
AGENCY	\$53,502	.008

XI. FOIA Regulations (Including Fee Schedule)

17 CFR 200.80; 17 CFR 200.83; Fee Regulation: 17 CFR 200.80(e) and Schedule: www.sec.gov/foia/feesche.htm

XII. BACKLOGS, CONSULTATIONS, AND COMPARISONS

	A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Ad	ministrative Appeals
	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year
AGENCY	159	6

Discuss/Explain the backlog here(Optional)

	B. Consultations on FOIA Requests Received, Processed, and Pending Consultations											
	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of								
	Consultations Received	Consultations	Consultations Received	Consultations Received								
	from Other Agencies	Received from Other	from Other Agencies	from Other Agencies								
	that Were Pending at	Agencies During the	that Were Processed by	that Were Pending at								
	Your Agency as of	Fiscal Year	Your Agency During	Your Agency as of								
	Start of the Fiscal Year		the Fiscal Year	End of the Fiscal Year								
AGENCY	0	0	0	0								

C. Consu	C. Consultations on FOIA Requests Ten Oldest Consultations Received from Other Agencies and Pending at Your Agency										
								Oldest Consultation and Number of Days Pending			
AGENCY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

D. Comparison of Numbers of Requests from Previous and Current Annual Report Requests Received, Processed, and Backlogged					
	NUMBER OF REQUESTS RECEIVED		NUMBER OF REQUESTS PROCESSED		
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	
AGENCY	7878	10461	8285	10554	

	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	
AGENCY	196	159	

E. Comparison of Numbers of Administrative Appeals from Previous and Current Annual Report Appeals Received, Processed, and Backlogged						
	NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>PROCESSED</u>			
	Number Received	Number Received	Number Processed	Number Processed		
	During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report		
AGENCY	247	189	267	199		

	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
AGENCY	21	6

F. Discussion of Other FOIA Activities (Optional)