

AUG - 1 2008



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Chief Financial Officer
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Clay Johnson, III
Chairman, President's Management Council
Old Executive Office Building, Room 260
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On May 30, 2008, the Attorney General submitted to the President his annual report on the progress that has been made in implementing Executive Order 13392, "Improving Agency Disclosure of Information." Section IV, "Recommendations," requires agencies identified as having missed one or more milestones to provide the President's Management Council by August 1, 2008, with a status report on corrective actions that have been taken.

We are pleased to report that the Department of Commerce has partially addressed the one instance in which a milestone had not been met as of September 30, 2007.

- 1. Relevant Plan Area:** Backlog Reduction
- 2. Deficient Milestone and Original Target Date:** Close out 10 oldest FOIA requests in those bureaus where applicable for FY 07. (September 30, 2007)
- 3. Steps Taken to Correct Deficiency and Date Completed:** As of the target date, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was able to close out five of the 10 oldest FOIA requests by the end of fiscal year 2007. Two of the remaining five were closed out as of February 12, 2008. Work is continuing on the last three requests, which involve voluminous records concerning the investigation into the cause and collapse of the World Trade Center.
- 4. Additional Steps to be Taken:** Additional staff has been assigned to assist with the processing of the requests, which includes preparing and processing the written notice to submitters of the voluminous photographs obtained by the Department. Target completion date: September 30, 2008.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-482-4951 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "O. Wolff", written over the typed name and title.

Otto J. Wolff
Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration