

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOIA ANNUAL REPORT

FOR
10/01/2010
THROUGH
09/30/2011

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

The following **Annual Freedom of Information Act** report covers the Period 10/01/2010, through 09/30/2011, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552.

I. BASIC INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT

1. Provide name, title, address, and telephone number of person(s) to be contacted with questions about the Report.

Linda Mauldin
Paralegal Specialist
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20581
Tel.:(202) 418-5497

2. A copy of this report can be found on our website at:

http://www.cftc.gov/foi/foiareference/foia_annrept11.html

3. To obtain a copy of this report in paper form, please submit the Electronic FOIA Request Form found on our website at:

<https://www.cftc.gov/FOI/request/index.htm>

Or send a written request to:

Mail:

FOIA Office
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20581
Tel.: (202) 418-5497

or

Email:

FOIAsubmissions@cftc.gov

II. MAKING A FOIA REQUEST

All FOIA requests must be made in the form of a written request precisely describing the records sought. Any request for nonpublic records will be handled as a FOIA request regardless of how it is identified, but requests should be identified as a "FOIA request" in order to avoid delay in processing.

FOIA requests should contain a precise description of the records sought, including the subject matter, relevant time period, and the name and address of any company to which the request pertains. Requests should also include an agreement to pay any FOIA processing fees, and the requester's address and telephone number.

1. Regardless of how submitted (via mail, fax or e-mail) requests should be addressed as follows:

Freedom of Information Act Request
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20581
E-mail address is: FOIAsubmissions@cftc.gov

2. The CFTC receives requests for records regarding a company's business practices and requests for records relating to the CFTC's law enforcement investigations and regulatory activity. The majority of requests that are initially denied, or partially denied, are due to statutory constraints on disclosure or because disclosure would interfere with ongoing law enforcement activities.

III. ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS

1. Provide any agency-specific acronyms or terms used in this Report.
 - a. **CFTC or Commission** - Commodity Futures Trading Commission
 - b. **Section 8** - Section 8 of the Commodity Exchange Act
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.
- l. **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. **Perfect 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
 - i. **Exemption 9:** geological information on wells

IV. Exemption 3 Statutes

A. For Initial Requests			
Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency
7 U.S.C. §12 (Commodity Exchange Act)	[D]ata and information that would separately disclose the business transactions of any person and trade secrets or names of customers gathered in the course of the Commissions investigations under the Commodity Exchange Act	Hunt v. CFTC, 484 F. Supp. 47, 49 (D.D.C. 1979)	16

B. For Appeals			
Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency
7 U.S.C. §12 (Commodity Exchange Act)	[D]ata and information that would separately disclose the business transactions of any person and trade secrets or names of customers gathered in the course of the Commissions investigations under the Commodity Exchange Act	Hunt v. CFTC, 484 F. Supp. 47, 49 (D.D.C. 1979)	3

V. FOIA REQUESTS

A. Received, Processed and Pending FOIA Requests				
	Number of Requests Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
AGENCY OVERALL	19	168	145	42

B.(1) Disposition of FOIA Requests All Processed Requests													
# of Full Grants	# of Partial Grants/ Partial Denials	# of Full Denials Based on Exemptions	Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									TOTAL	
			No records	All Records Referred to Another Agency	Request withdrawn	Fee-related reason	Records not reasonably described	Improper FOIA request for other reasons	Not an agency record	Duplicate Request	Other *Explain in chart below		
44	28	17	26	0	10	0	0	0	3	2	0	15	145

B.(2) Disposition of FOIA Requests Other Reasons for Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions		
Component	Description of Other Reasons for Denials from Chart B (1) & Number of Times Those Reasons Were Relied upon	TOTAL
AGENCY OVERALL	Public Records	15

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)
0	2	16	16	22	12	11	0	1	0	8	0	1	0

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS

A. Received, Processed and Pending 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
AGENCY OVERALL	1*	4	3	2

*The agency began using the electronic tracking system in FY 2010. Any discrepancies in the numbers are based on unfamiliarity with the system.

B. Disposition of Administrative Appeals All Processed Appeals					
	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 OVERALL	3	0	0	0	3

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)
0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

C.(2) Reasons for Denial on Appeal Reasons Other than Exemptions												
	No records	Request withdrawn	Fee-related reason	Records not reasonably described	Not a proper FOIA request for some other reason	Not an agency record	Duplicate Request or Appeal	Request in Litigation	Appeal Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	Other	TOTAL	
	*Explain in chart below											
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

C.(3) Reasons for Denial on Appeal Other Reasons		
Component	Description of Other Reasons for Denials from Chart C (2) & Number of Times Those Reasons Were Relied upon	TOTAL
AGENCY OVERALL		0

C.(4) Response Time for Administrative Appeals												
	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 OVERALL	90	84.67	48	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

C.(5) Ten Oldest Pending Administrative Appeals										
	10th Oldest Appeal and Number of Days Pending	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal and Number of Days Pending
AGENCY OVERALL									09/14/2011 12	01/05/2010 438

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 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 OVERALL	13.5	28.39	<1	145	79	119.26	1	473	0	0	0	0

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 OVERALL	22.5	37.71	<1	145	57	111.65	1	473	0	0	0	0

C. Processed Requests Response Time in Day Increments															
Simple Requests															
	< 1 Day	1-20 Days	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
AGENCY OVERALL	6	65	16	8	8	4	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	114
Complex Requests															
	< 1 Day	1-20 Days	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
AGENCY OVERALL	0	2	6	4	4	3	2	2	1	0	1	4	0	2	31
Requests Granted Expedited Processing															
	< 1 Day	1-20 Days	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
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

D. Pending Requests All Pending Perfected Requests									
	SIMPLE			COMPLEX			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 OVERALL	21	74	94	21	100	119	-	-	-

E. Pending Requests Ten Oldest Pending Perfected Requests										
	10th Oldest Request and Number of Days Pending	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request and Number of Days Pending
AGENCY OVERALL	01/20/2011 177	01/19/2011 178	11/18/2010 218	11/12/2010 222	11/02/2010 229	10/21/2010 237	10/07/2010 246	08/27/2010 274	05/27/2010 338	12/22/2009 446

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 OVERALL	0	5	<1	20	4

B. Requests for Fee Waiver				
	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
AGENCY OVERALL	3	1	<1	1.25

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	Processing Costs	Litigation-Related Costs	Total Costs
AGENCY OVERALL	1.00	0.325	1.325	\$148,270.76	\$0.00	\$148,270.76

X. FEES COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS

	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs (Rounded to nearest hundredth decimal)
AGENCY OVERALL	\$3,195.40	2.16%

XI. FOIA Regulations (Including Fee Schedule)

The Commission's FOIA regulations, 17 C.F.R. §145, including fee schedule, can be found at

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title17/17cfr145_main_02.tpl

XII. BACKLOGS, CONSULTATIONS, AND COMPARISONS

A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals		
	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year
AGENCY OVERALL	29*	1

*The agency began using the electronic tracking system. Any discrepancies in the numbers are based on unfamiliarity with the system.

Discuss/Explain the backlog here(Optional)

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

C. Consultations on FOIA Requests Ten Oldest Consultations Received from Other Agencies and Pending at Your Agency										
	10th Oldest Consultation and Number of Days Pending	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Consultation and Number of Days Pending
AGENCY OVERALL										

D. Comparison of Numbers of Requests from Previous and Current Annual Report Requests Received, Processed, and Backlogged				
	NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>PROCESSED</u>	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Years Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Years Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
AGENCY OVERALL	158	168	139*	145

*The agency began using the electronic tracking system. Any discrepancies in the numbers are based on unfamiliarity with the system.

	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 OVERALL	13*	29

*The agency began using the electronic tracking system. Any discrepancies in the numbers are based on unfamiliarity with the system.

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 During Fiscal Year from Last Years Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Years Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
AGENCY OVERALL	1*	4	0*	3

*The agency began using the electronic tracking system. Any discrepancies in the numbers are based on unfamiliarity with the system.

	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 OVERALL	1*	1

*The agency began using the electronic tracking system. Any discrepancies in the numbers are based on unfamiliarity with the system.

F. Discussion of Other FOIA Activities (Optional)