

May 30, 2010

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
FOIA/Privacy Officer Mailstop: T-5 F09
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Fax: 301-415-5130

E-mail: FOIA.resource@nrc.gov

Phone: 301-415-7169

FOIA/PA REQUEST

Case No.: 2010-0245

Date Rec'd: 6-1-10

Specialist: Brown

Related Case: _____

Re: Energy Northwest

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C., Section 552) ("FOIA"), Hanford Challenge requests copies of the following records:

Any and all materials held by or controlled by U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding or relating to in any way to concerns or complaint(s) filed by any individual about or against Energy Northwest or about or against any Energy Northwest employee since January 1, 2005 relating to nuclear safety, employee safety, public safety, security of the site, including cybersecurity, or any retaliation against Energy Northwest employees. Please include any and all written or otherwise recorded documents and/or communications (investigatory notes, interview notes, notes to file, tape recordings, letters, responses to Requests for Information, etc) and all responses from the subject of the complaint, be they emails, letters or other such documents.

We specifically request that you undertake a search of all offices that may be in possession or control of these records at any location where responsive records might reasonably be found, including but not limited to contractor offices or locations, including but not limited to Energy Northwest.

If any records covered by this request have been destroyed and/or removed, or are destroyed and/or removed after receipt of this request, please provide all surrounding records, including but not limited to a list of all records which have been destroyed and/or removed, a description of the actions taken, relevant dates, and individual, office and/or agency-wide policies and/or justifications for the action(s).

I hereby request that all fees, if any, be waived because finding this information is in the public interest, which could lead to a greater understanding of the operations of these facilities. Hanford Challenge is not requesting the information for any private or commercial purpose and

is a non-profit, public interest organization designated as a tax exempt entity under IRS code 501(c)(3). I have enclosed our IRS letter of exemption for your review.

This fee waiver request is based upon 5 U.S.C. sec. 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(II), which provides for fee waivers or reductions “if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” *See, Center for Biological Diversity v. OMB*, 546 F.Supp. 2d 722 (N.D. Cal. 2008).

Our interest in the disclosure of these records is for public education, advocacy for public interest goals, and a more responsive and accountable government that promotes protection of human health and safety. Our investigations are disseminated through our website as well as our newsletters, and often reported in the news media. In addition, we publish special reports and meet with public officials, workers, and the public at large to educate and promote solutions for issues affecting human and environmental health and safety around the Washington Tri-City Area, specifically nuclear sites such as the Columbia Generating Station and the Hanford Site. Hanford Challenge is a member or, and participant in the Hanford Advisory Board, which advises the US Department of Energy, the EPA and the State of Washington, on nuclear cleanup issues, including those related to the Hanford Nuclear Site and surrounding area. Hanford Challenge is also a founding and participating member in the Hanford Concerns Council, which resolves significant employee concerns at the Hanford Site.

Hanford Challenge works with members of the DOE and NRC contractor work force on issues affecting worker and public health and safety, environmental concerns, and site management issues. We monitor internal systems in effect at nuclear sites for addressing worker issues, including employee concerns regarding retaliation and nuclear safety.

Below is an analysis using agency criteria for a fee waiver:

1. subject matter of the requested records must specifically concern identifiable "operations or activities of the government." A request concerning only the information content of a record and without relation to government operations or activities does not satisfy this factor.

This criteria is clearly met. We seek records in the possession and control of the NRC relating to the handling and processing of complaints against Energy Northwest, a particular government contractor entrusted with a high degree of responsibility for nuclear safety and for not retaliating against employees who raise nuclear safety concerns. The NRC has maintained a reporting structure that investigates and tracks complaints raised by employees at the NRC sites, making this function an identifiable operation of the government.

2. Whether the requested information “is in the Public Interest Because it is Likely to Contribute Significantly to the Public Understanding of the Operations of Activities of the Government.”

The release of the requested information is in the public interest and is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations of the government because workers are key source of information about government operations. The primary channel for employees to express concerns outside of their workplace venues is through the NRC. Such data is therefore likely to contribute in significant ways to the public understanding of government operations.

3. The requested records must be meaningfully informative in relation to the subject matter of the request and should not already be in the public domain.

The requested records relate to the subject of our request, and are not in the public domain.

4. Disclosure of the Information "is Not Primarily in the Commercial Interest of the Requester."

- (A) The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest: Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure;

There is no commercial interest associated with our request. Hanford Challenge is a non-profit organization chartered under a 501(c)(3) designation in the IRS Code.

- (B) 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."

The primary, and only interests in the disclosure of these records are for public education, advocacy for public interest goals, and the reform of the government for a more responsive and accountable government.

Hanford Challenge is uniquely situated to analyze and publish reports about the subject matter of this request. Our staff has many years of experience related to nuclear oversight, and has unique expertise regarding environmental, safety and health issues associated with nuclear sites.

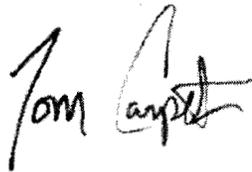
We maintain an expansive and regularly updated website (hanfordchallenge.org) which is viewed by tens of thousands of visitors annually, and we publish a quarterly newsletter which is distributed by mail, at meetings, and on the website. We conduct or participate in monthly public forums and meetings, and our staff often appear on talk shows, in interviews, and in public events.

For the above-stated reasons, Hanford Challenge therefore requests a fee waiver in this matter.

I look forward to a response to this request within twenty working days of the receipt of this

letter. If you have any questions, I am available at the address listed above.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Carpenter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T" and "C".

Tom Carpenter, Executive Director

FOIA Resource

From: Tom Carpenter [tomc@hanfordchallenge.org]
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 3:48 PM
To: FOIA Resource
Subject: FOIA request/Columiba Generating Station
Attachments: 2010 05.30 FOIA to NRC.pdf

Dear FOIA Officer,

Attached please find a Freedom of Information Act request for records relating to the Columbia Generating Station. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Carpenter

Tom Carpenter, Executive Director
Hanford Challenge
219 First Avenue, S., Suite 120
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 292-2850, ex 22