

Nichols, Russell

From: Darren Ash
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2008 7:22 AM
To: Thomas Boyce (OIS); Jennifer Golder; James Schaeffer
Cc: Karen Olive; Russell Nichols
Subject: Fw: Attorney General's Report Pursuant to E.O. 13392
Attachments: NRC - LLP.doc; Legend.doc

Hi,
You were not cc'd on this message Russ and I received last night. Please cc me on the response, which is due on Tuesday.
Thanks,
Darren

----- Original Message -----

From: Thomas E Hitter <Thomas.E.Hitter@usdoj.gov>
To: Darren Ash
Cc: Russell Nichols; Kenneth A Hendricks <Kenneth.A.Hendricks@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Fri May 09 19:00:05 2008
Subject: Attorney General's Report Pursuant to E.O. 13392

Pursuant to Executive Order 13392, the Attorney General is required to report to the President by June 1, 2008 regarding agency performance under the Order. This report is based on a review of agencies' fiscal year 2007 annual FOIA reports and will include a discussion of agencies' performance in implementing their FOIA improvement plans. Attached please find a draft of the performance chart regarding your agency as it will appear in the Attorney General's report. Also attached is a draft of an explanatory legend.

If you have comments regarding the attached chart, please provide them by the close of business on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. Please respond by e-mail to Ken Hendricks at Kenneth.A.Hendricks@usdoj.gov and Tom Hitter at Thomas.E.Hitter@usdoj.gov.

Thank you.

<<NRC - LLP.doc>> <<Legend.doc>>

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

	Improvement Area	Progress	Goal Completed
<p>FOIA OPERATIONS</p> <p>Chief FOIA Officer: Mr. Darren Ash</p> <p>Public Liaison: Mr. Russell A. Nichols Ms. Margie Janney</p> <p>FOIA Requester Service Center: 301-415-7169</p>	<p><u>Backlog reduction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this improvement area is to reduce the processing time for FOIA requests. Improvements in areas 2 through 4 will also contribute to backlog reduction. <p><u>Leverage the use of information technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this improvement area is to acknowledge receipt of FOIA requests via email to the maximum extent possible, process requested records electronically by performing onscreen redactions, and provide final responses to requesters via email when they agree to receive them in electronic form. <p><u>Training of FOIA initial processors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this improvement area is to develop and provide training for NRC staff who conduct initial reviews of records in response to FOIA requests to enhance the accuracy of their application of FOIA exemptions to the information. This should minimize the amount of coordination required and shorten the processing time. 		

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

June 1, 2008

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

June 1, 2008

Ash, Darren

From: Darren Ash
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 9:49 AM
To: Russell Nichols; Joseph Holonich; Jennifer Golder; Thomas Boyce (OIS); James Schaeffer; Margie Janney
Cc: Karen Olive
Subject: RE: FOIA Annual Reports

Russ,
Thank you very much for the update. It is appreciated.
Question - do you think these changes necessitate a Commission TA briefing at some point in the near future?
I'm particularly sensitive to your comment about the possible perception of increased response times.
Darren

From: Russell Nichols
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 8:37 AM
To: Karen Olive; Joseph Holonich; Jennifer Golder
Cc: Darren Ash; Thomas Boyce (OIS); James Schaeffer; Margie Janney; Barbara Cullen; Becky Menefee; Donna Sealing; Leroy Winters; Mary Jean Raphael; Natalie Brown; Reginald Sheppard; Sandra Northern; Teayana Battle
Subject: RE: FOIA Annual Reports

Yesterday, Donna and I attended the DOJ training on the annual FOIA reporting that we will be required to submit for FY08. It is totally revised because of the additional information required by the Open Government Act, the additional information DOJ is now requiring, and the new format DOJ has designed. Some of the reporting criteria have changed so that the numbers won't correlate to previous numbers, i.e., we will no longer be reporting requests that fall purely under the Privacy Act (PA) (someone asking for records about themselves that are contained in a PA system of records). This will likely impact the total number of requests we report as received/processed and, because PA requests are normally simple requests that get closed within the 20-day window, taking them out of the mix could make it look like an increase our response times. Our FOIAXpress vendor was there and he told me that they will have the software updated by late June so that we can begin capturing the additional required data because DOJ wants us to begin capturing it for Q4 of this year and include that in this year's report. DOJ also move up the due date from early February to January 5, 2009. They want to review it and approve it before agencies post it to their web site.

From: Karen Olive
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 4:13 PM
To: Joseph Holonich; Jennifer Golder; Russell Nichols
Cc: Thomas Boyce (OIS); James Schaeffer
Subject: FW: FOIA Annual Reports

Darren asked me to forward this to you. Thanks!

Karen, x2276

From: Darren Ash
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 11:30 AM
To: Karen Olive
Subject: FW: FOIA Annual Reports

From: DOJ OIP FOIA [mailto:DOJ.OIP.FOIA@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 8:42 AM

To: Aitken, Steven; Darren Ash; Barnes, Janet L.; Bartholow, Steven; Bartlett, Michael; Berry, Matthew; Bertina Adams; Black, Andrew; Black, David ; Blakely, Edward; Boling, Edward; Booker, Carol; Bryant, Wil; Buffon, Kathleen; Callear, James; Calvert, Lawrence; Chellaraj, Rajkumar; Conley, Michael; Danker, Deborah; De Deo, Carol; Donley, Michael; Duncan, Thomasenia; Fernandez, Alexander; Flahavan, Richard; Ford, Delorice; Fortuno, Victor; Garfinkel, Mark; Grosner, Brian; Hackett, John; Hall, Martin; Hertz, Philip; Hill, Beverly; Howell, Michael; Hughes, Inez; Johnson, Jennifer L.; Johnson, Mary; Jordan, Mosina; Jurith, Edward; Kaye, Janice; Kearney, Barry; Keats, Craig; Kelsey, Sara A.; Killette, Delores; Knapp, Lindy; Kolb, Ingrid; Laponsky, Mark; Mantini, John; Marston, Chris; Mason, Eileen; mspb@mspb.gov; McCarthy, Peter B.; McDonnell, Erin; McKenna, Michael; Monroig, Emma; Morgan, Rita M; Mould, David; Nelson, Keith; Nichols, Dorothy; Oliveri, Medaris; Pearson, Christina H. ; Petrick, James; Powell, D. Matthew; Propper, Susan; Reynolds, Emily; Reynolds, Kate; Richards, Laura; Rowe, Patrick; Ruiz, Diego; Russell, Reed L.; Rutherford, Boyd K.; Sandros, Tanya M.; Scherer, Robert; Schiffer, Lois; Shannon, Matthew; Shapiro, Robert; Shonka, David; Sokul, Stanley; Sorbera, Joe; Soshinsky@fmcs.gov; St. Louis, N.; Stern, Gary; Stevenson, Todd; Suro-Brodie, Carmen; Tarasiuk, Aldolfo; Teufel, Hugo; Tittsworth, Jim; Tobey, Bill; Travers, Linda; Trinity, Frank; Valandra, Joseph; VanBrakle, Bryant; Verreau, Rebecca; Wallace, Sally; Warner, Christopher; Watson, Carole; Weiss, Nancy; Wellman, Tricia; Williams, Steven; Winefordner, Arlin; Wolff, Otto; Zak, Leocadia; Apol, D; Caldwell, J.; Callear, James; Cantor, Jonathan; Kopley, E. Anne; Leonard, Rachael; Lighton, Sharon; Overton, Bruce; Phelps, John; Vicky Lewis; Yoshimura, Edwin

Subject: FOIA Annual Reports

Chief FOIA Officers:

In the wake of the OPEN Government Act of 2007, which amended the reporting requirements for agency Annual FOIA Reports, the Department of Justice, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, has revised both the content and the format of the Report and its corresponding guidelines. The revised guidelines, posted today, reflect the new statutory mandate. They also include new reporting requirements, including data on agency backlogs, which are an extension of the goals set forth in Executive Order 13,392, and are in furtherance of best practices in FOIA administration. The guidance also clarifies existing reporting requirements and further defines the type of requests to include in the Annual FOIA Report.

Please use this link to view the new Annual FOIA Report Guidance, <http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/foiapost/guidance-annualreport-052008.pdf>.