

From: Michael Blanding [michael@michaelblanding.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 10:51 AM
To: FOIA Resource
Subject: FOIA request: Oct. 25, 2011 letter by Congressman Ed Markey

Michael Blanding, Fellow
Safra Center for Ethics
Harvard University
c/o 28 Brook St.
Brookline, MA 02445
617-791-0504

February 22, 2012

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

FOIA REQUEST
Expedited processing requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, I request access to and a copy of an October 25, 2011 letter written by US Congressman Edward Markey requesting voting records and related documents by NRC commissioners relating to the issues raised in response to Fukushima.

I would like to receive the information in the following format: electronic.

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. Through this request, I am gathering information on the nuclear power industry that is of current interest to the public because of concerns over the safety and reliability of nuclear power. This information is being sought on behalf of the Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University for dissemination to the general public. I am a freelance magazine writer with 20 years of experience in investigative reporting. The information from this request will be used in preparation for a news article.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone, rather than by mail, if you have questions regarding this request.

FOIA/PA REQUEST
Case No.: 2012-0149
Date Rec'd: 2/22/12
Specialist: Y. McCoy
Related Case: _____

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency. As a journalist, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information. The public has an urgent need for information about the nuclear power industry because of concerns over the safety and reliability of nuclear power in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear accident last year. The information is particularly timely due to the increase in public interest around the one-year anniversary of the Fukushima accident, March 11, 2012. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael Blanding

--

Michael Blanding
Senior Fellow, Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism, Brandeis University
Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University
617-791-0504
www.michaelblanding.com
@michaelblanding