

## FOIA Resource

---

**From:** nobody@www.nrc.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 09, 2012 1:45 PM  
**To:** FOIA Resource  
**Subject:** WWW Form Submission

### FOIA/PA REQUEST

**Cms No.:** 2012-0297  
**Date Rec'd:** 8/9/12  
**Specialist:** MILGORE  
**Related Case:** \_\_\_\_\_

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by  
( ) on Thursday, August 09, 2012 at 13:44:47

---

FirstName: Mark

LastName: Flatten

Company/Affiliation: Washington Examiner

Address1: 1015 15th Street NW. Suite 500

Address2:

City: Washington, DC

State: DC

Zip: 20005

Country: United\_States

Country-Other:

Email: mflatten@washingtonexaminer.com

Phone:

Desc: FOIA REQUEST  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, I request the following documents in regards to your agency, including all departments, offices bureaus and other divisions.

1: Any letters, reports, emails or other documents responsive or related to your agency's review of conference costs in response to the directives of the Office of Management and Budget in M-12-12 issued on May 11, 2012 (conference costs of federal agencies). On page 4 of that memorandum OMB directs agencies to conduct senior level reviews of all planned conferences, and all future conference expenses in excess of \$100,000. Point # 3 also prohibits any single conference in which the cost will exceed \$500,000 unless the agency head specifically documents the grounds for any waiver of this prohibition in writing. I would also note that M-12-12 directs agencies to "report publicly on all conference expenses in excess of \$100,000." While this requirement states that this information shall be posted on the agency Web site by Jan. 31, 2013, I would ask that you fulfill the expectation of transparency on any documents responsive to this issue in your possession as quickly as possible.

- 2: Any letters, reports, emails or other documents from your agency responsive to the directive of OMB in its memorandum M-11-35, issued Sept. 21, 2011. Page 2 of this report requires deputy secretaries or their equivalent to certify that appropriate policies and controls to mitigate inappropriate spending practices are in place. It also directs agencies to report to OMB on the results of their reviews, presumably in writing.
- 3: Any spreadsheets, reports or other records which document your agency's total spending on conferences over the past five years.
- 4: Any spreadsheets, databases or other reports that provide detailed spending records for any conference over the past five years in which your agency's cost exceeded \$100,000. This differs from Item # 3 in its level of detail. Item 3 seeks total costs on conference spending. Item 4 seeks all records, including line items for hotels, travel, meals, entertainment and any other expenses for any conference in the past five years in which the total cost exceeded \$100,000.
5. Any report from the Inspector General of your agency, or any other investigative report, examining the issue of any conference costs incurred over the past five years.
6. Any documents or other records, including electronic databases, that your agency produced to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in response to a letter sent on or about April 10, 2012 and signed by Chairman Darrell Issa requesting documentation of conference costs. To the degree that this portion of the request satisfies or is satisfied by item 1 through 5, you need not duplicate those records.

If any of these documents are already available online through your agency, please forward me the responsive Web address to fulfill that portion of this request. To the degree possible, I would ask that you fill this request electronically. To the degree databases showing detailed agency spending are available, I would ask that you provide them in a searchable electronic format that can be converted to Excel or similar commercially available program. I would also ask that you produce these records as they become available, rather than waiting until all of the information has been compiled.

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 work done by government employees. This is of interest to the public because the federal government is funded by tax dollars and functions on behalf of the American people.

This information is being sought on behalf of The Washington (DC) Examiner newspaper for dissemination to the general public. The Examiner is a daily, general circulation newspaper, which reaches an estimated 200,000 to 250,000 readers in the Washington D.C. area daily, and has nearly six million unique Web visits per month.

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. Federal conference costs are clearly an important issue to the public. The White House/OMB made a strong case in that regard, and for complete transparency, through the two memorandums that are the basis of this request. In the event a fee waiver is denied, please notify me if the anticipated charges will exceed \$50.

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. I can be reached at (202) 459-4929. I would also ask that you provide me with documents as they are cleared by your FOIA office, rather than waiting until all documents have been assembled.

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

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Mark Flatten  
Investigative Reporter  
Washington Examiner  
(202) 459-4929

FeeCategory: NewsMedia

MediaType: Washington Examiner

MediaType\_Newspaper: on

FeeCategory\_Description:

Expedite\_ImminentThreatText:

Expedite\_UrgencyToInform: on

Expedite\_UrgencyToInformText: This information is being sought on behalf of The Washington (DC) Examiner newspaper for dissemination to the general public. The Examiner is a daily, general circulation newspaper, which reaches an estimated 200,000 to 250,000 readers in the Washington D.C. area daily, and has nearly six million unique Web visits per month. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. Federal conference costs are clearly an important issue to the public. The White House/OMB made a strong case in that regard, and for complete transparency, through the two memorandums that are the basis of this request. In the event a fee waiver is denied, please notify me if the anticipated charges will exceed \$50.

Waiver\_Purpose: Newspaper story

Waiver\_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: This information will be used to examine the conference spending practices of the NRC.

Waiver\_SpecificActivityQuals: Newspaper story. Washington Examiner is a daily, general circulation newspaper.

Waiver\_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: Conference costs of federal agencies is an important topic to taxpayers and the president. As noted above, the White House OMB has issued two substantive memos mandating agency disclosure of this information.

Waiver\_NatureOfPublic: The Examiner is a daily, general circulation newspaper, which reaches an estimated 200,000 to 250,000 readers in the Washington D.C. area daily, and has nearly six million unique Web visits per month.

Waiver\_MeansOfDissemination: Newspaper.

Waiver\_FreeToPublicOrFee: Information published free on our Web site and distributed in daily newspaper.

Waiver\_PrivateCommericalInterest: None

---