

Case No.: 2014-0302
 Date Rec'd: 6/24/14
 Specialist: Dennis
 Related Case: _____

FOIA Resource

From: David Lochbaum <nobody@www.nrc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 12:09 PM
To: FOIA Resource
Subject: WWW Form Submission

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by David Lochbaum () on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 12:09:26 through the IP (b) (6) using the form at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/foia-submittal-form.html> and resulted in this email to foia_resource@nrc.gov

 Company/Affiliation: Union of Concerned Scientists

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Country-Other:

Email: dlochbaum@ucsusa.org

Phone: 423-468-9272

Desc: All emails between July 1, 2012, and September 1, 2013, in which NRC staffer Ben Beasley was the sender and NRC staffer Doug Coe was a recipient for which the text item "Criscione" appears. Also, all emails between July 1, 2012, and September 1, 2013, in which NRC staffer Doug Coe was the sender and NRC staffer Ben Beasley was a recipient for which the text item "Criscione" appears.

FeeCategory: Educational

MediaType:

MediaType_Other_Description:

Expedite_ImminentThreatText:

Expedite_UrgencyToInformText:

Waiver_Purpose: UCS reviewed a redacted copy of OIG Case No. 13-001 involving NRC staffer Larry Criscione providing safety information to the US Congress. Beasley and Coe were in Criscione's management chain and appear to have been interviewed by OIG during its investigation. UCS seeks the requested records to supplement our understanding of this matter.

Waiver_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: UCS will review the requested records to supplement our awareness of the matter. UCS hopes to better understand the nature of the concerns by NRC about a staffer exercising a legal right to share safety concerns with the US Congress. UCS also hopes to gain better awareness of the NRC's process for withholding information from the public, both initially and later in response to FOIA requests. The requested emails will likely provide insights into these areas.

Waiver_SpecificActivityQuals: UCS is conducting our FY15 planning. We currently plan a report during FY 15 (perhaps accompanied by blog post(s) and an issue brief) on the NRC's process for withholding documents from the public and redacting information from documents released under FOIA. UCS will likely describe the matter related to the requested emails as a case study or focus topic in this report.

Waiver_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: Considerable public attention has been focused on the NRC's refusal to provide the Senate EPW committee with documents it requested. The theme of our report, the NRC's process for withholding documents from the public, is along similar lines. UCS fields many inquiries from reporters and citizens regarding the NRC/Senate EPW battle. UCS seeks to better understand the NRC's process so as to provide meaningful commentary in proper context.

Waiver_NatureOfPublic: The NRC/Senate EPW battle is a larger arena than UCS will likely reach with our report on NRC document withholding practices. But many of our colleagues across the country also use FOIA and experience documents withheld from the public. And several reporters across the country have expressed interest from the "good government" and transparency perspective. UCS receives considerable attention to the nuclear safety reports and materials we develop and issue because we, in large part, see information appetites that we seek to satisfy. At this time, NRC's withholding of nuclear safety information is of considerable interest to the public.

Waiver_MeansOfDissemination: As discussed in the answer to question 3 above, UCS plans a report on NRC's processes for withholding documents from the public and for redacting information from documents released to the public via FOIA. That report, and collateral materials like blog posts and issue briefs, will likely discuss the information in the documents obtained by this FOIA request.

Waiver_FreeToPublicOrFee: UCS materials are posted to the UCS website (www.ucsusa.org) and UCS blog (allthingsnuclear.org) and are available free of charge. Donations to UCS are encouraged, but not required to view/download these materials.

Waiver_PrivateCommericalInterest: None.
