NEVADA NUCLEAR WASTE TASK FORCE, INCORPORATED Non-profit Public Advocacy

c/o Judy Treichel Executive Director 4587 Ermine Court Las Vegas, NV 89147-5178

Phone: 702-248-1127 Fax: 702-248-1128

APPEAL FROM INITIAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT DECISION

February 10, 2012

Via Email, Facsimile and Federal Express FOIA Privacy Act Officer U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Mail Stop T-5 F11 Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

FC	APA REQUESI
Case No.:	2013.000×11
Date Rec'd:	2-13-12
Specialist:	Canal S
Related Cas	e: 2011-020-2

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal: NRC FOIA/PA-2011-00363

Dear FOLA/PA Officer:

The purpose of this letter is to appeal a final United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) determination sent to me in correspondence dated January 12, 2012 by Donna L. Sealing, Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Officer.

This "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" is being sent to you by email, facsimile, and Federal Express. A copy of NRC's January 12, 2012 determination letter is attached hereto (as Exhibit A). The response letter stated that it was a final determination that may be appealed within 30 days of receipt to your office. My original request is also attached (Exhibit B).

Background

A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for videotapes of senior technical staff members was sent by facsimile by the Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force (Task Force) on September 26, 2011. These tapes were referred to in a memorandum from Catherine Haney, Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners on February 4, 2011 and were also noted in a statement by Catherine Haney to the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, House of Representatives on June 24, 2011.

An acknowledgement, dated September 27, 2011 was received by the Task Force showing the assigned number for the request, the name of the assigned FOIA specialist –

Deborah Dennis, and an explanation of fees. Over the next four months there was a series of e-mails and unusual phone calls regarding this request, and finally a determination that was highly unsatisfactory. The following is a chronology of events:

In early October, 2011, Ms. Dennis notified me that the videotapes I had requested were actually ten DVDs and I would be required to pay \$467.38 for them. She sent a Statement of Estimated Fees (Exhibit C) showing that the fee was for ten hours of search time (the first two of which were free) and the duplication of ten DVDs. I faxed Ms. Dennis my credit card information and required identification on the same day to cover the charge.

On October 13, 2011 Ms. Dennis notified me by email that the program office would like to set up a conference call to discuss my (the Task Force) request. A call was arranged for Monday, October 17. Just before the call was to be held on October 17, I was notified by Ms. Dennis that she was home sick and the call would have to be rescheduled. A short time later I received a phone call from Janet Kotra, of the program office. She said that she was calling because we had known each other for a long time and she wanted to find out if they could provide transcripts instead of the DVDs because some of the people were uncomfortable about the release of the discs. She said that her interview was about 40 minutes long, she thought. I told her that I had paid for ten DVDs and I assumed that that represented ten interviews and that's what I wanted. She said that she understood and we agreed to talk again when the conference call occurred.

The conference call occurred on Wednesday, October 19. Speaking for the program office was King Stablein. He said that he wanted a clarification of exactly what I wanted from the videos because he wanted me to have what we wanted but also to protect the privacy of the people being interviewed. He suggested making transcripts. I refused saying I knew that there were 10 DVDs because the FO1A office had confirmed that and accepted payment for them. I said that Cathy Haney had stated that the videos were made for knowledge capture and that was what I wanted. King replied that he had reviewed them but not thoroughly and that their position was that some of the content on the tapes, if it had to be provided, would be done so in a transcript rather than an actual tape. Ms. Dennis finished the call by saying that Mr. Stablein and his staff would further review the discs and they would determine with the General Counsel's office how the privacy issues would be handled in the final response to the Task Force request.

Ms. Dennis sent me an email on November 7, 2011 saying that the program office had been instructed to proceed with processing my request for the DVDs effective that day. They still had an argument about the privacy issue but the OGC would have to concur. She told me to check with her in a couple of weeks. Later that day I faxed the FOIA office and OGC a letter recapping what had occurred so far with the request and payment for the ten DVDs and I included a statement made just a few days carlier by NRC Chairman Jaczko regarding the videotaped interviews and the intention to allow public use of them.

Throughout November and December, 2011 I sent email messages to Ms. Dennis asking for updates on the progress on my FOIA request. The reply to each request was that the OGC was continuing to review and/or edit the DVDs. On January 14, 2012 I received the response package (Exhibit A) from the FOIA office, dated January 12. It contained five DVDs and Response sheets noting that information had been withheld from one disc under Exemption 5, Deliberative process: The Denying Official was Catherine Haney. There were also two appendices. Appendix A listed the names of four people interviewed whose records had been released in their entirety and Appendix B listing one interview that was released in part.

On January 18, 2012 I emailed Ms. Dennis and Cathy Haney and asked why I had only received five DVDs after being told there were ten and after paying for ten DVDs plus ten hours of seatch time. And I also asked how many redactions had been made from the Appendix B disc – the interview with Bret Leslie. I explained that in order to determine if I would appeal the response, I would need to know why the information had been redacted. Two days later, on January 20; Ms. Dennis replied that: 1) I would receive a full refund but she did not say why. 2) "It was determined that the information removed falls under deliberative privilege, and this type of information is not available through discovery during any ongoing litigation. This is boiler plate language from the FOIA statute and Department of Justice guidance and is not an acknowledgement of any ongoing or pending litigation." 3) OGC determined that the redacted comments by Mr. Leslie fall under the deliberative process, and are therefore exempt from disclosure and she listed the amount of time that was removed in each of three edits. No mention was made of the subject matter withheld or what deliberation or decision was involved.

On January 25, 2011 I emailed Cathy Haney again requesting more complete information in order to determine the basis of an appeal if I decided to make one. She replied the same day asking me to give her a few days to get an answer. The next day Ms. Dennis wrote to say that there had only been five interviews, not ten and that the full refund was because nothing they did exceeded the \$25 minimum allowed. (1'his is odd since I was charged and paid almost \$500.) She also said that the edits were "deliberative process" and that there was no "pending litigation." I never received any further answer from Catherine Haney. Again, I was not told what deliberation or what decision justified any claim of privilege concerning this "knowledge capture" interview.

Grounds for Appeal.

The response to this FOIA is deficient for the following reasons:

1) Requested records were not provided: I requested all videotapcs referred to by Catherine Haney, and later referenced by Chairman Jaczko, that had been made for knowledge capture through interviews with departing and other senior technical staff members. My initial communication from Deborah Dennis, the FOIA specialist assigned to the Task Force request, informed me that the interviews were contained on ten DVDs and the costs for those was \$467.38 which I paid. For more than three months following the acknowledgement of ten DVDs I exchanged numerous emails and had multiple phone calls where the existence of the ten discs was discussed and no question was ever raised about the number or the cost associated with search and duplication of them. During a telephone conversation with Janet Kotra on October 17 and again on an October 19, 2011 conference call I clearly noted the number of discs and what I had paid for them. King Stablein alluded to the fact that he had done a cursory (not thorough) review of them.noting what had and. had not been discussed. There was no mention of there being fewer than ten discs. For more than two months following those telephone conversations, the program office and the Office of the General Counsel were reportedly reviewing and editing the DVDs and no one said that there were only half as many as had been reported and paid for. When the determination/response finally was received on January 14, 2012 there were just the five discs and no explanation of why I was told there were ten and charged for the duplication and search time for ten. It was only after I inquired about the discrepancy that I was surprisingly told that a full refund would be made. In a subsequent email Ms. Dennis said that there had only been five, not ten interviews and that the cost had gone from \$467.38 to less than \$25.00. Knowledge capture of the program office senior technical staff would surely involve more than five people. I cannot prove what I did not receive but it certainly appears that all requested records were not provided.

2) Incorrect Assertion of FOIA Exemption 5: According to the description of Exemption 5, it covers records that are not available through discovery during litigation. However, when I asked Ms. Dennis and Ms. Haney about this, Ms. Dennis said that there was no pending litigation. She correctly pointed out that the Deliberative process box had been checked as well and she explained that the release of the information would tend to inhibit the open and frank exchange of ideas but, even though I asked, I was not told the topic of conversation, subject or reason for the redaction.

3) Inadequate Description: The only information 1 could get from Ms. Dennis regarding the redactions on the DVD with Bret Leslie's interview is the length of time of each of the three edits. An NRC determination was made that the information edited was not subject to the FOLA due to deliberative process privilege. I was not told the topic of the deliberation or what decision was under consideration or even that any decision was under consideration. There is no way to make a connection to the claimed privilege. Moreover, there is no information provided upon which you, the reviewing authority, can judge the validity of the claim of deliberative process privilege.

While the clock was running toward the deadline for the filing of this appeal, Catherine Haney asked that I wait a few days so that she could get me an answer regarding the justification for the reductions in the Leslie interview. She never sent a reply. Despite repeated requests, NRC and the denying official Catherine Haney, refused to respond to the critical question of:

- (a) What was the nature or subject of what was cut out of the Leslie disc; and
- (b) why was it deliberative of a decision; and
- (c) what decision?

The information requested in this FOIA was knowledge capture through interviews with senior technical staff. There is nothing privileged about knowledge capture nor would an interview lead to any imaginable decision (such that disclosure would create a "chilling effect" on open discussion).

Conclusion

The Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force seeks to obtain the full and complete collection of videotapes and or DVDs containing the interviews of the departing and other-

senior technical staff of the program office. If there were/are fewer than the ten that I was told existed and that I paid for, a complete explanation should be made regarding the months of communication, said to be about ten DVDs if in fact there were only half that number, as well as clarification of how the cost for the discs went from \$467.38 to less than \$25.00.

All interviews must be provided with no redactions unless an exemption exists that is legally justified and thoroughly explained.

Succeely, heichel Judy Treichel

Executive Director

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Determination letter – four pages Exhibit B: Task Force original FOIA request – 1 page Exhibit C: Statement of Estimated Fees – 1 page

NRC FORM 464 Part I	U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION	FOIA/PA	RESPONSE NUMB
(4-2011)		2011-0363	1
	RESPONSE TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) / PRIVACY ACT (PA) REQUEST	RESPONSE FINAL	
REQUESTER		DATE	
Elaine Grossman		JAN 1 7 2012	
	PART I INFORMATION RELEASE	0	
No additional a	gency records subject to the request have been located.		
·	ords are available through another public distribution program.		
APPENDICES	Agency records subject to the request that are identified in the public inspection and copying at the NRC Public Document Ro	orn.	
	Agency records subject to the request that are identified in the public inspection and copying at the NRC Public Document Romentation on boundary states and the shores for a	om.	
Document Roo	ormation on how you may obtain access to and the charges for c m, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738.	opying records located at the	
APPENDICES A&B	Agency records subject to the request are enclosed.	oct to spother Federal agona	
referred to that	agency (see comments section) for a disclosure determination a	and direct response to you.	nave Deen
We are continu	ing to process your request.		
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	PART I.A FEES	*** * * *	
AMOUNT .	You will be billed by NRC for the amount listed.	None. Minimum fee threshol	d not met.
See comments for details	You will receive a refund for the amount listed.	Fees walved.	
	PART I.B INFORMATION NOT LOCATED OR WITHHELD	FROM DISCLOSURE	<u> </u>
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NRC FORM 464 Part II	U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION	FOIA/PA	DATE
	O FREEDOM OF INFORMATION	2017-0363	JAN 1 2 2012
ACT (FOIA)	PRIVACY ACT (PA) REQUEST	-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
B Exen	PART II.A APPLICABL ords subject to the request that are described in the enclo nption No.(s) of the PA and/or the FOIA as indicated bel	osed Appendices are being with ow (5 U.S.C. 552a and/or 5 U.S	nheld In their entirety or in part under the i.C. 552(b)).
	e withheld information is properly classified pursuant to l	Executive Order 12958.	
Exemption 2: Th	e withheld information relates solely to the internal perso	onnel rules and practices of NR	C.
Exemption 3: The	e withheld Information is specifically exempted from pub	lic disclosure by statute indicate	:d.
Sections 14 2161-2165)	1-145 of the Alomic Energy Act, which prohibits the disc	closure of Restricted Data or Fo	rmerly Restricted Data (42 U.S.C.
Section 147	of the Atomic Energy Act, which prohibits the disclosure	e of Unclassified Safeguards In	formation (42 U.S.C. 2167).
agency to a	Section 253b, subsection (m)(1), prohibits the disclosure ny person under section 552 of Title 5, U.S.C. (the FOIA er of the proposal.		
Examption 4: Th	e withheld information is a trade secret or commercial of	r financial information that is be	ing withheld for the reason(s) indicated.
and a second sec	ation is considered to be confidential business (proprieta	•••	
accounting	ation is considered to be proprietary because it concerns program for special nuclear material pursuant to 10 CFF	R 2.390(d)(1).	
	alon was submitted by a foreign source and received in with ham an identifiable private or governmental interest		2.390(d)(2).
	e withheid information consists of interagency or intraag		ble through discovery during literation
Ap	plicable privileges: process: Disclosure of predecisional information would		
deliberative There also	process. Where records are withheld in their entirety, the are no reasonably segregable factual portions because the approcess of the agency.	he facts are inextricably intertwi	ned with the predecisional information.
,		ovin contomptation of literation)	
	rk-product privilege. (Documents prepared by an attorn		
hannal -	ent privilege. (Confidential communications between an	. ,	
inv inv	e withheld information is exempted from public disclosur asion of personal privacy.		,
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requireme	a could reasonably be expected to interfere with an enforement efforts, and thus could possibly allow recipie ints from investigators). a could constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal	ints to take action to shield pote	uld reveal the scope, direction, and Initial wrong doing or a violation of NRC
	nation consists of names of individuals and other information	•	ild reasonably be expected to reveal
identities i	of confidential sources.	· .	
(E) Disclosure reasonabl	e would reveal techniques and procedures for law enforc y be expected to risk circumvention of the law.	ement investigations of prosect	utions, or guidelines that could
(F) Disclosure	e could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or p	hysical safety of an individual.	
OTHER (Specify)			
	PART II.B DENYING	OFFICIALS	
Pursuant to 10 CFR 9.2 that the information with Interest. The person re denials that may be app	25(g), 9.25(h), and/or 9.65(b) of the U.S. Nuclear I nheld is exempt from production or disclosure, an sponsible for the denial are those officials identific sealed to the Executive Director for Operations (E	Regulatory Commission reg d that its production or disc ed below as denying officia DO).	ulations, it has been determined losure is contrary to the public is and the FOIA/PA Officer for any
DENYING OFFICIA	L TITLE/OFFICE	RECORDS	DENIED APPELLATE OFFICIAL EDO SECY IG
Catherine Haney	Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety	Sce Appendix B	
	and Safeguards		
U.S. Nuclear Regulator	n writing within 30 days of receipt of this response y Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, for elope and letter that it is a "FOIA/PA Appeal."	a. Appeals should be mailed action by the appropriate appropria	d to the FOIA/Privacy Act Officer, opellate official(s). You should

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NRC FORM 484 Part II (4-2011)

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Re: FOIA/PA-2011-0363

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APPENDIX A RECORDS BEING RELEASED IN THEIR ENTIRETY

NO. DATE DESCRIPTION/ (PAGE COUNT)

- 1. Various High Level Waste Knowledge Management Videos of a. Phil Justus b. Janet Kotra c. Tim McCartin
 - d. Eugene Peters



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received 1/14/12

02/10/2012 10:41 EVX 2022481128

Re: FOIA/PA-2011-0363

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APPENDIX B RECORDS BEING RELEASED IN-PART

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NO. DATE 1. 1/5/10

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DESCRIPTION/ (PAGE COUNT)

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High Level Waste Knowledge Transfer Interview of Bret Leslie, Ex. 5

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received 1/14/12

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NEVADA NUCLEAR WASTE TASK FORCE, INCORPORATED Non-profit Public Advocacy

c/o Judy Treichel Executive Director 4587 Emine Court Las Vegas, NV 89147-5178

Phone: 702-248-1127 Fax: 702-248-1128

September 26, 2011

VIA FACSIMILE

**

FOIA/Privacy Act Officer U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Mail Stop T-5 F11 Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Freedom of Information Act — Request for Videotapes of Senior Technical Staff Members

To Whom It May Concern:

On February 4, 2011, NMSS Director Catherine Haney wrote a Memorandum to all five Nuclear Regulatory Commission Commissioners. A copy of her Memorandum is attached to this request. On page 2 of her Memorandum, Ms. Haney states that "Departing and other senior technical staff members were interviewed on videotape for knowledge capture and as a future training resource."

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 55 U.S.C. 552, the undersigned requests copies of the following:

Any and all interviews on videotape of departing and other senior technical staff members as referred to in Ms. Haney's February 4, 2011 Memorandum.

This request is made on behalf of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force, a non-profit public advocacy organization.

The requesting party is willing to pay up to a total amount of \$1,000 for search time and videotape copying costs without the necessity for further approval. The requesting party has specifically made this request as narrow as possible in order to facilitate expeditious response by NRC.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at 702.248.1127.

Sincerely, -perchet

Judy Treichel Executive Director

		U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION	REQUEST NUMBER
(1-2009) Super a rouge		APPROVED BY OMB: 3150-0043 EXPIRES: 11/30/2011	FOIA/PA - 2011-03
	STATEMENT	OF ESTIMATED FEES FOR	DATE
F	REEDOM OF INFO	DRMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST	10/05/2011
REQUESTER		NRC CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Judy Treichel		Deborah Dennis	301-415-5704
\$25.00 or a limit stated i re-scope your request to Otherwise, please provid re-scoping your request	in an FOIA request. The produce fees, you may to de a written response on or the required written re	52 FR 49350, the NRC notifies a requester when estimated fees for processing your FOIA request elephone the NRC contact identified above to dis- required action noted below. If the NRC does not esponse within 10 working days from the date of t ing your request and will close the file on your rec	t are noted below. If you wish cuss re-scoping the request, pt receive notice from you on this notice, the NRC will pres
		ESTIMATED FEES	
SEARCH	\$ 450.88	(10 hrs - 2 Free = 8 hrs @ \$56.36)	, στη τη μεταγρατική τη μαριτική τη μαριτική τη τη μαριτική τη
REVIEW	\$		
	\$ 16.50	(10 DVDs @ \$1.65 ca).	
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NEVADA NUCLEAR WASTE TASK FORCE, INCORPORATED

c/o Judy Treichel, Executive Director 4587 Ermine Court Las Vegas, NV 89147-5178 Non-profit/Public Advocacy E-mall: Phone: 702-248-1127 Fax: 702-248-1128

Fax Transmittal Date: February 10, 201 LA J way 1 To: 5130 From: Pages including this cover

Comments:

appeal from initial FOIA decision

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