**GREG MUTTITT**

Freedom of Information Officer, Headquarters,
U.S. Department of Energy,
FOIA/Privacy Act Office,
1000 Independence Avenue, SW,
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U.S.A.

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SCIENTIFIC/EDUCATIONAL/NEWS MEDIA
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June 11, 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Freedom of Information Act request: Energy Secretary Iraq visit, July 2006

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), I hereby request that copies be provided to me of:

- Documents on the subject of the Iraqi oil and gas (hydrocarbons) sector, relating to Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman's visit to Iraq on 18 July 2006.

Specifically, please include:

- The minutes, preparatory notes and agendas of any relevant meetings held during the visit.
- Drafts of the Iraqi oil law, or statements of Iraqi oil policy, reviewed or received during the visit.
- Memoranda, briefings and correspondence, on the subject of the oil and gas sector, produced in preparation for the visit.
- Subsequent reports, correspondence and analysis arising directly from the visit.

I do not require the following:

- Media reports or press releases about the visit.
- Documents from the visit which do not relate to hydrocarbons (such as those on the subject of electricity).

In order to help you locate this information, I attach below an article from Platts about the visit. Please see also your Department's press release of 18 July 2006, at http://www.energy.gov/news/3843.htm

### Treatment of withheld information

If you decide to withhold any of these records (or portions thereof), please explain the basis for your exemption claims, in order to permit me to reach an informed decision as to whether or not to file an administrative appeal. If an exemption applies, however, please

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consider exercising your discretionary release powers to disclose the records. Additionally, please release all reasonably segregable portions of the records that do not meet an exemption.

## Fee waiver request

I request a waiver of fees, under section (a)(4)(A)(iii) of the FOIA. I require the above information to disseminate it to the public, and not for any commercial purpose. I shall disseminate it through my book 'Fuel on the Fire', on the subject of oil policy in Iraq, for which I have a publication agreement with publishers the Random House Group Limited. The book is expected to have a large circulation worldwide (exceeding 100,000), including within the United States. Its publication will be combined with media articles and blogging. As evidence of my ability to generate such coverage, my work has previously been reported in the *Washington Post, Time, National Public Radio, Financial Times, Dow Jones Newswires,* local US radio stations, and numerous non-US and online outlets.

I am an expert in Iraqi oil policy, which I have studied since 2003. I have traveled twice to Iraq, I have strong contacts with Iraqi and non-Iraqi oil experts and stakeholders, and have spoken many times at conferences of policymakers, civil society, business, journalists and academics. With this specialist knowledge, I am well placed to interpret the requested information to a public audience.

Disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the role of the US government in reconstructing Iraq. It is evident that there is considerable public concern for the future of Iraq, as seen in sustained, extensive media coverage, in widespread civil society engagement, in opinion polling and in direct expressions of concern by citizens. However, the majority of the publicly available information (in particular, media coverage) on the US role in Iraq focuses on military activities; much less is known about the behind-the-scenes policy development, which will be no less important to the future of the country, including the prospects of peace and security. Oil, which accounts for around 95% of Iraqi government revenue, is a vital part of this picture.

The specific role of the Department of Energy in contributing to Iraqi oil policy discussions, and assisting capacity development of Iraqi institutions, is little known amongst the public. Furthermore, on the question of oil in Iraq there are numerous suspicions and conspiracy theories. As such, publicly disseminating information about the US contribution is likely to lead to a more informed discussion, and significantly enhance public understanding.

If this fee waiver is denied, please inform me of your reasons. In that case, for the purpose of assessing fees, please treat me as a representative of the news media, under FOIA section (a)(4)(A)(ii)(II). In consideration of such fee status, please note:

- The definition of "news media" in the Open Government Act of 2007, as "any person or entity that gathers information of potential interest to a segment of the public, uses its editorial skills to turn the raw materials into a distinct work, and distributes that work to an audience" (sec.3);

- The definition of "news" in the Department of Energy's FOIA regulations as "information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public" (section Sec. 1004.2(m) ); and
- The ruling in *National Security Archive v. Department of Defense*, 880 F.2d 1381 (D.C. Cir. 1989) that the Freedom of Information Reform Act of 1986 requires a broad interpretation of "news media" as a person or organization who publishes and disseminates information to the public, including through the publishing of books.

In any case, please notify me if costs are to exceed $50. I agree to pay costs not exceeding that amount, subject to your consideration of my above submissions on fee status.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Muttitt

**US' Bodman says no US oil companies willing to enter Iraq now**

London (Platts)--18Jul2006

US energy secretary Samuel Bodman said Tuesday that US companies were not interested in entering Iraq before the security situation improves and a new hydrocarbon law is passed.

Bodman, speaking at a news conference in Baghdad after talks with oil minister Hussein al-Shahrestani, said this was the message he got from senior US oil executives he has spoken to.

"We are interested... there are a lot of reserves there but we cannot think about investing. We want a more secure environment and the establishment of a hydrocarbon law. Both are required. Both are necessary," Bodman said at the news conference, monitored from London.

Bodman said that he hoped the hydrocarbon law that would be in place by the end of the year, allowing Iraq to attract foreign investment to increase is oil production capacity. But he said he believed an Iraqi target of 3 million b/d by the end of the year was optimistic.

"I believe that the minister talked about 3 million before end of year. That may be a bit optimistic but there is great opportunity there," said Bodman.

While the draft hydrocarbon law made clear that Iraq's resources belong to the nation, the role of regional governments in future developments was rather vague and needed clarifying, he added.

The proposed law "leaves open question of whether regional governments will play a more active role with respect to new discoveries. It is that which needs clarifying," said Bodman.