Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 1, 2009

Mr. Michael Ravnitzky

Re: FOIA-2009-000178

Dear Mr. Ravnitzky:

This is in final response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. You asked for any guidance documents or e-mails concerning whether, how and by what means the Energy Department will carry out the intent of the President's Memorandum on the Freedom of Information issued by the White House on January 21, 2009.

A search was conducted of the files of this office and the office of the Chief FOIA Officer. The search identified the enclosed document as responsive to the request. The document is provided to you in its entirety.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact me at (202) 586-3159.

Sincerely,

Alexander Morris
FOIA Officer
Office of Information Resources

Enclosure

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

Morris, Alexander

Subject: FW: FOIA - IXOS DOE-Ixos-Archive 137 KB

-----Original Message-----
From: Kolb, Ingrid
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 5:35 PM
To: Isakowitz, Steve; Pyke, Tom; Nolan, Betty; Whatley, Annie; Gruenspecht, Howard; Hoffman, Patricia; Byrd, Stacy (WAPA Liaison); Triay, Ines; Der, Victor; Fygi, Eric; Podonsky, Glenn; Marmolejos, Poli; Franklin, Rita; Friedman, Greg; Geiser, David; George, Jonathan, Brig Gen, USAF; Johnson, Shane; Shrier, Jonathan; Kouts, Christopher; Dehmer, Patricia; Nicoll, Eric; Dodd, Jack (WAPA Liaison); Borgia, Stanley J.; DAgostino, Thomas; Baker, Ken (NNSA); Baskerville, Sonya; Moe, Darrick (SWPA Liaison); Kolb, Ingrid; Ostendorff, Bill; Wells, Rita; Leistikow, Dan
Cc: OConnor, Rod
Subject: FOIA - IXOS DOE-Ixos-Archive 137 KB

Attached for your review are copies of two memorandums that were issued by the President last week regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the importance of transparency and an open government.

The memorandum on FOIA directs agencies to act promptly on FOIA requests and to adopt a presumption in favor of disclosure on all decisions involving FOIA. It also directs agencies to take affirmative steps to make information public rather than waiting for requests. The Attorney General and the Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will soon update guidance for agencies to increase and improve information dissemination to the public through the use of new technologies. In the meantime, as the Department's Chief FOIA Officer, I ask that you use the guidance provided in the President's memorandum in responding to FOIA requests and in making decisions on information to be posted on your organization's website. The Office of Management will send you bi-weekly status reports on pending FOIA requests to ensure accountability and timeliness.

The memorandum on transparency and open government stresses the President's commitment to openness in government and instructs agencies to use technology to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use. The memorandum directs the Chief Technology Officer to work with the OMB Director, General Services Administrator, and departments and agencies to develop within the next 120 days recommendations for an Open Government Directive that will instruct departments on specific actions for implementing the principles set forth in the President's memorandum.

Please disseminate these memorandums within your organization to ensure that all employees are aware of the increased emphasis on transparency and openness. I will provide you with additional information as it becomes available. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the memorandums, please let me know.