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Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 2:53 PM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

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Record Description:

I seek all comments submitted to the Department of Energy concerning DOE's Smart Grid Investment Grant Program and the Smart Grid Demonstration Projects program, both of which were announced on Thursday, April 16.

A DOE press release stated that both proposals would be open for a 20 day comment period beginning on April 16 and closing on May 6. I request all comments submitted on these proposals during this time frame.

Beyond the comments themselves, I request the dates the comments were submitted and the identity of the parties that submitted the comments.

Because the DOE "will use feedback [included in the comments] to finalize the grant program structure and subsequent solicitation," according to an April 16 DOE news release, it is important for the media to have access to comments and to have the identity of the commenters. This will ensure that the public knows which parties influenced DOE's expenditure of nearly $4 billion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

The Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability is managing the program.

Preferred Form or Format: PDF or Microsoft Word

Type of Requester (if provided):

A representative of the news media affiliated with Inside Washington Publishers and the request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.

Type of Media (if provided):

Newspaper

Fees and Fee Waivers:

I request a waiver or reduction of fees.

Waiver or Reduction of Fees Factors (if provided):

1. The subject of the request: Whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government."

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The records concern the operations of the government.

2. The informative value of the information to be disclosed: Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities.

The records are likely to contribute to an understanding of how DOE has been influenced (and by whom) in its effort to develop a more modern electricity grid and how it intends to help stimulate the economy.

3. The contribution to an understanding by the general public of the subject likely to result from disclosure, taking into account your ability and intent to disseminate the information to the public in a form that can further understanding of the subject matter.

The information will be made available to the public by replication in newsletters (online and print) published by Inside Washington Publishers.

4. The significance of the contribution to public understanding: Whether the disclosure is likely to contribute "significantly" to public understanding of government operations or activities.

As mentioned above, the information will shed light on how DOE will spend nearly $4 billion of Recovery Act funding and how its expenditure of that money has been influenced by parties that commented on the initial proposals.

5. The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest: Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure, and, if so

This disclosure is primarily in the public interest.

6. The primary interest in disclosure: Whether the magnitude of the identified commercial interest of the requester is sufficiently large, in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."

This disclosure is primarily in the public interest.

Expedited Processing:

I believe a compelling need exists to warrant expedited processing because there is:

an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity exists (this option available ONLY for requesters primarily engaged in disseminating information)

Specific Justification for Expedited Processing:

The public deserves to know how stakeholders commented on the funding before DOE finalizes the two programs. This will ensure that they can object to comments that diverge from the public interest and concur with comments that support the public interest, if they feel it is necessary.