Morris, Alexander

From: FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 6:08 PM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

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Record Description:

All correspondence between Secretary Chu and members of Congress and their offices (only one copy of duplicates necessary) since his appointment including but not limited to follow-up answers to his Senate confirmation hearing.

Preferred Form or Format: emailed documents

Type of Requester (if provided):

A representative of the news media affiliated with Dow Jones Newswires, Wall Street Journal and the request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.

Type of Media (if provided):

Other: Newswires and paper

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."

Given that the Secretary and lawmakers are discussing policy in this correspondence, it clearly concerns the operations and activities 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 correspondence should reveal policy positions.

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 correspondence should reveal policy positions to the public, given that we are in the media disseminate information to the public.

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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.

The correspondence should reveal "significant" policy matters.

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

there is no commercial 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."

n/a

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:

¶ There is an urgency for two reasons:
1) On the part to inform the public about an actual or alleged Federal government activity, the information is requested by myself, a reporter for Dow Jones Newswires, who's primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public.
2) Because the nature of some of the issues involved - including climate change issues - could threaten the health and welfare of U.S. citizens and potential policy disclosure is in the interest of the public.