Morris, Alexander

From: FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2009 3:15 PM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

Name: Sharona Coutts

Organization: ProPublica

Address:

One Exchange Plaza,
55 Broadway,
23rd Floor
New York, NY 10006

Phone: 917 512 0225

FAX: 2127852634

Email: sharona.coutts@propublica.org

SCIENTIFIC EDUCATIONAL NEWS MEDIA
JUL 08 2009 03

Record Description:

Please provide me with copies of documents reflecting privately funded travel by Department of Energy employees, from July 1, 2008 until present.

Preferred Form or Format: Electronic

Type of Requester (if provided):

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

Type of Media (if provided):

Other: Online organization

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."

The records concern relationships between private companies and government employees. To any extent that those relationships have a bearing on the employees' functions, the records squarely concern "the operations or 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.

There have been many instances in the past where the intersection between private interests and public employees has come as a revelation to the public. As such, these records are "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities.

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.

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ProPublica will publish the story on our web site, and potentially in partnership with another publication.

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 records will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations or activities by illuminating the relationships between government and the private sector.

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."

There is no commerical interest.

Expedited Processing:

Specific Justification for Expedited Processing: