FOIA-2009-000621
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Morris, Alexander

SCIENTIFIC/EDUCATIONAL/NEWS MEDIA
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From: Ken Vogel [kvogel@politico.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 4:17 PM
To: Morris, Alexander; FOIA-Central
Subject: POLITICO FOIA request 2

Please use this version of my FOIA request to replace the one I just sent.
Thanks and sorry for the mix-up,
Ken

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552).

I request that a copy of the following documents be provided to me:

1 - Any and all waivers granted to Department of Energy political appointees who were appointed during the Obama administration to President Obama's Executive Order 13490 (Ethics Commitments By Executive Branch Personnel), including but not limited to waivers to Section 1, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. I am seeking waivers issued to both appointees who were registered as lobbyists under the Lobbying Disclosure Act and to appointees who were not registered as lobbyists.

2 - Any and all letters of recusal signed by Obama administration Department of Energy political appointees barring or clearing them to participate in "particular matter[s]" or "specific issue area[s]" directly and substantially related to their former clients or employers, as set forth in President Obama's Executive Order on Ethics Commitments By Executive Branch Personnel. I am seeking letters of recusal issued to both appointees who were registered as lobbyists under the Lobbying Disclosure Act and to appointees who were not registered as lobbyists.

3 - Any and all communications received from or sent to The White House, the Obama administration Department of Energy appointees in question or their representatives by employees of the Department of Energy related to waivers or letters of recusal pursuant to President Obama's Executive Order on Ethics Commitments By Executive Branch Personnel, including, but not limited to, emails, notes, letters and phone messages sent by, or received from, the White House Special Counsel for Ethics Norman L. Eisen.

4 - Any and all communications received from or sent to the employers or business partners of Obama administration political appointees by employees of the Department of Energy related to determining the "particular matter[s]" and "specific issue area[s]" on which the appointees worked, as well as the clients for which they worked.

I am a reporter for POLITICO - a newspaper publishing five days per week and website updated 24 hours a day, seven days a week - and this request is made as part of news gathering. I request expedited processing of this request because it concerns a matter of urgency: public trust in President Obama's pledge to implement the most ethical administration ever.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. Please release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to make this request easier or faster to process. As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone (703.647.7985) or email (kvogel@politico.com) if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,
Ken

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