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From: FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2009 5:40 PM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

SCIENTIFIC/EDUCATIONAL/NEWS MEDIA
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Record Description:

1.
a. A referral memo by DOE's Inspector General dated on or about February/March 2009 to the Office of Fossil Energy in re. allegations of Hatch Act violations/official time violations and/or any other allegations involving officials with the National Energy Technology Laboratory and/or the American Federation of Government Employees; ; any associated documents, memos, e-mails etc. pertaining to the matter.
b. Fossil Energy's response dated on or about April 3, 2009.
c. DOE OIG's Executive Brief on the matter.

2.
a. E-mails, memos, documents etc. to the DOE OIG Hotline re. alleged Hatch Act violations/official time violations at the National Energy Technology Laboratory.
b. Correspondence (e-mails, memos, letters etc.) between the DOE Inspector General and NETL employees/American Federation of Government Employees officials/the Office of Special Counsel re. alleged Hatch Act violations/official time violations at NETL.

3. E-mails, memos, documents and any other correspondence between NETL's Kathleen Fear, AFGE Local 1916 President Ronald DeMicheli, AFGE Local 1995 President Dan Doyle involving discussion of any investigation by the DOE OIG or the Office of Special Counsel of alleged Hatch Act violations/official time violations at NETL.

Preferred Form or Format: PDFs by e-mail

Type of Requester (if provided):

A representative of the news media affiliated with Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 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):

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

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.

Likely to contribute.

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.

Contribution to understanding will result

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.

Disclosure will contribute significantly

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

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."

Not in commercial 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:

I work for a major metropolitan daily newspaper investigating government corruption, waste and malfeasance. The dissemination of information about any investigation into alleged wrongdoing on the part of federal government employees is of paramount importance to a free and democratic society and such information should be made available to the public as expeditiously as possible.