

Office of Government Ethics

§ 2604.301

(b) *Records available.* The Office of Government Ethics public reading room facility contains OGE records which are required by 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2) to be made available for public inspection and copying, including:

(1) Any final opinions, as well as orders, made in the adjudication of cases;

(2) Any statements of policy and interpretation which have been adopted by the agency and are not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER;

(3) Any administrative staff manuals and instructions to staff that affect a member of the public, and which are not exempt from disclosure under section (b) of the FOIA;

(4) Copies of records created by OGE that have been released to any person under subpart C of this part which, because of the nature of their subject matter, OGE determines have become or are likely to become the subject of subsequent requests for substantially the same records, together with a general index of such records; and

(5) Current indexes providing identifying information for the public as to any matter which was issued, adopted or promulgated after July 4, 1967, and is required by 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2) to be made available or published.

(c) *Copying.* The cost of copying information available in OGE's public reading room facility shall be imposed on a requester in accordance with the provisions of subpart E of this part.

(d) OGE may delete from the copies of materials made available under this section any identifying details necessary to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Any such deletions will be explained in writing and the extent of such deletions will be indicated on the portion of the records that are made available or published, unless the indication would harm an interest protected by the FOIA exemption pursuant to which the deletions are made. If technically feasible, the extent of any such deletions will be indicated at the place in the records where they are made.

[60 FR 10007, Feb. 23, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 28090, May 25, 1999]

§ 2604.202 Index identifying information for the public.

(a) The Office of Government Ethics will maintain and make available for public inspection and copying a current index of the materials available at its public reading room facility which are required to be indexed under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2).

(b) The Director of the Office of Government Ethics has determined that it is unnecessary and impracticable to publish quarterly or more frequently and distribute (by sale or otherwise) copies of each index and supplements thereto, as provided in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2). The Office will provide copies of such indexes upon request, at a cost not to exceed the direct cost of duplication and mailing, if sending records by other than ordinary mail.

[60 FR 10007, Feb. 23, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 28090, May 25, 1999]

Subpart C—Production and Disclosure of Records Under FOIA

§ 2604.301 Requests for records.

(a) *Addressing requests.* Requests for copies of records may be made in person or by telephone, 202-208-8000, or FAX, 202-208-8037, during normal business hours at the Office of Government Ethics, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005-3917 or by mail addressed to the FOIA Officer of OGE. Although oral requests may be honored, a requester generally will be asked to submit his request under the FOIA in writing. In the case of a written request, the envelope containing the request and the letter itself should both clearly indicate that the subject is a Freedom of Information Act request.

(b) *Description of records.* Each request must reasonably describe the desired records in sufficient detail to enable Office personnel to locate the records with a reasonable amount of effort. A request for a specific category of records will be regarded as fulfilling this requirement if it enables responsive records to be identified by a technique or process that is not unreasonably burdensome or disruptive of Office operations.

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(1) Wherever possible, a request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipient, and subject matter of the record.

(2) If the FOIA Officer determines that a request does not reasonably describe the records sought, he will either advise the requester what additional information is needed to locate the record, or otherwise state why the request is insufficient. The FOIA Officer will also extend to the requester an opportunity to confer with Office personnel with the objective of reformulating the request in a manner which will meet the requirements of this section.

(c) *Agreement to pay fees.* The filing of a request under this subpart will be deemed to constitute an agreement by the requester to pay all applicable fees charged under subpart E of this part, up to \$25.00, unless a waiver of fees is sought. The request may also specify a limit on the amount the requester is willing to spend, or may indicate a willingness to pay an amount greater than \$25.00, if applicable. In cases where a requester has been notified that actual or estimated fees may amount to more than \$25.00, the request will be deemed not to have been received until the requester has agreed to pay the anticipated total fee.

(d) *Requests for records relating to corrective actions.* No record developed pursuant to the authority of 5 U.S.C. app. (Ethics in Government Act of 1978, section 402(f)(2)) concerning the investigation of an employee for a possible violation of any provision relating to a conflict of interest shall be made available pursuant to this part unless the request for such information identifies the employee to whom the records relate and the subject matter of any alleged violation to which the records relate. Nothing in this subsection shall affect the application of subpart D of this part to any record so identified.

(e) *Seeking expedited processing.* (1) A requester may seek expedited processing of a FOIA request if a compelling need for the requested records can be shown.

(2) “Compelling need” means:

(i) Circumstances in which failure to obtain copies of the requested records

on an expedited basis could reasonably be expected to pose an imminent threat to the life or physical safety of an individual; or

(ii) An urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged Federal Government activity, if the request is made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information.

(3) A requester seeking expedited processing should so indicate in the initial request, and should state all the facts supporting the need to obtain the requested records quickly. The requester must also certify in writing that these facts are true and correct to the best of the requester’s knowledge and belief.

[60 FR 10007, Feb. 23, 1995, as amended at 64 FR 28090, May 25, 1999]

§ 2604.302 Response to requests.

(a) *Response to initial request.* The FOIA Officer is authorized to grant or deny any request for a record and to determine appropriate fees.

(b) *Referral to, or consultation with, another agency.* When a requester seeks access to records that originated in another Government agency, OGE will normally refer the request to the other agency for response; alternatively, OGE may consult with the other agency in the course of deciding itself whether to grant or deny a request for access to such records. If OGE refers the request to another agency, it will notify the requester of the referral. If release of certain records may adversely affect United States relations with foreign governments, the Office will usually consult with the Department of State. A request for any records classified by some other agency will be referred to that agency for response.

(c) *Honoring form or format requests.* In making any record available to a requester, OGE will provide the record in the form or format requested, if the record already exists or is readily reproducible by OGE in that form or format. If a form or format request cannot be honored, OGE will so inform the requester and provide a copy of a non-exempt record in its existing form or format or another convenient form or format which is readily reproducible.