

## Tennessee Valley Authority

## § 1301.8

exempt and are not made available if they are:

(1)(i) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and

(ii) Are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;

(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of TVA;

(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute;

(4) Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from any person and privileged or confidential;

(5) Inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a private party in litigation with TVA, including without limitation records relating to control and accounting for special nuclear material and to the physical security plans for the protection of TVA's nuclear facilities;

(6) Personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(7) Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information:

(i) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings,

(ii) Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication,

(iii) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy,

(iv) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source,

(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement inves-

tigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(8) Contained in or related to examination, operation, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of any agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institution; or

(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

(b) The availability of certain classes of nonexempt records is deferred for such time as TVA may determine is reasonably necessary to avoid interference with the accomplishment of its statutory responsibilities. Such records include bids and information concerning the identity and number of bids received prior to bid opening; all nonexempt records relating to bids between the time of bid opening and award; and all nonexempt records relating to negotiations in progress involving contracts or agreements for the acquisition or disposal of real or personal property by TVA prior to the conclusion of such negotiations. Any reasonably segregable portion of an available record shall be provided to any person requesting such record after deletion of the portions which are exempt under this paragraph.

### § 1301.8 Business information.

(a) *In general.* Business information obtained by TVA from a submitter will be disclosed under the FOIA only under this section.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

(1) *Business information* means commercial or financial information obtained by TVA from a submitter that may be protected from disclosure under Exemption 4 of the FOIA.

(2) *Submitter* means any person or entity from whom TVA obtains business information, directly or indirectly. The term includes corporations; state and local governments; and foreign governments.

(c) *Designation of business information.* A submitter of business information will use good-faith efforts to designate, by appropriate markings, either at the time of submission or at a reasonable time thereafter, any portions of its submission that it considers to be protected from disclosure under Exemption 4. These designations will expire ten years after the date of the submission unless the submitter requests, and provides justification for, a longer designation period.

(d) *Notice to submitters.* TVA shall provide a submitter with prompt written notice of a FOIA request or administrative appeal that seeks its business information wherever required under paragraph (e) of this section, except as provided in paragraph (h) of this section, in order to give the submitter an opportunity to object to disclosure of any specified portion of that information under paragraph (f) of this section. The notice shall either describe the business information requested or include copies of the requested records or record portions containing the information. When notification of a voluminous number of submitters is required, notification may be made by posting or publishing the notice in a place reasonably likely to accomplish notification of submitters.

(e) *Where notice is required.* Notice shall be given to a submitter wherever:

- (1) The information has been designated in good faith by the submitter as information considered protected from disclosure under Exemption 4; or
- (2) TVA has reason to believe that the information may be protected from disclosure under Exemption 4.

(f) *Opportunity to object to disclosure.* TVA will allow a submitter a reasonable time to respond to the notice described in paragraph (d) of this section. If a submitter has any objection to disclosure, it is required to submit a detailed written statement. The statement must specify all grounds for withholding any portion of the information under any exemption of the FOIA and, in the case of Exemption 4, it must show why the information is a trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. In the event that a submitter fails to respond to the notice within the

time specified in it, the submitter will be considered to have no objection to disclosure of the information. Information provided by the submitter that is not received by TVA until after its disclosure decision has been made shall not be considered by TVA. Information provided by a submitter under this paragraph may itself be subject to disclosure under the FOIA.

(g) *Notice of intent to disclose.* TVA shall consider a submitter's objections and specific grounds for nondisclosure in deciding whether to disclose business information. Whenever TVA decides to disclose business information over the objection of a submitter, TVA shall give the submitter written notice, which shall include:

- (1) A statement of the reason(s) why each of the submitter's disclosure objections was not sustained;
- (2) A description of the business information to be disclosed, and
- (3) A specified disclosure date, which shall be a reasonable time subsequent to the notice.

(h) *Exceptions to notice requirements.* The notice requirements of paragraphs (d) and (g) of this section shall not apply if:

- (1) TVA determines that the information should not be disclosed;
- (2) The information lawfully has been published or has been officially made available to the public;
- (3) Disclosure of the information is required by statute (other than the FOIA) or by applicable regulation; or
- (4) The designation made by the submitter under paragraph (c) of this section appears obviously frivolous—except that, in such a case, the component shall, within a reasonable time prior to a specified disclosure date, give the submitter written notice of any final decision to disclose the information.

(i) *Notice of FOIA lawsuit.* Whenever a requester files a lawsuit seeking to compel the disclosure of business information, TVA shall promptly notify the submitter.

(j) *Corresponding notice to requesters.* Whenever TVA provides a submitter with notice and an opportunity to object to disclosure under paragraph (d) of this section, TVA shall also notify

the requester(s). Whenever TVA notifies a submitter of its intent to disclose requested information under paragraph (g) of this section, TVA shall also notify the requester(s). Whenever a submitter files a lawsuit seeking to prevent the disclosure of business information, TVA shall notify the requester(s).

#### § 1301.9 Appeals.

(a) *Appeals of adverse determinations.* If you are dissatisfied with TVA's response to your request, you may appeal an adverse determination denying your request, in any respect, to TVA's FOIA Appeal Official, the Vice President, External Communications, Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 Summit Hill Drive (ET 6A), Knoxville, TN 37902-1499. You must make your appeal in writing and it must be received by the Vice President, External Communications within 30 days of the date of the letter denying your request. Your appeal letter may include as much or as little related information as you wish, as long as it clearly identifies the TVA determination (including the assigned request number, if known) that you are appealing. An adverse determination by the TVA Appeal Official will be the final action of TVA.

(b) *Responses to appeals.* The decision on your appeal will be made in writing within 20 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after an appeal is received. A decision affirming an adverse determination in whole or in part shall contain a statement of the reason(s) for the affirmance, including any FOIA exemption(s) applied, and will inform you of the FOIA provisions for court review of the decision. If the adverse determination is reversed or modified on appeal, in whole or in part, you will be notified in a written decision and your request will be reprocessed in accordance with that appeal decision.

(c) *When appeal is required.* If you wish to seek review by a court of any adverse determination, you must first appeal it under this section.

[64 FR 4044, Jan. 27, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 16513, Mar. 29, 2000; 67 FR 14853, Mar. 28, 2002]

#### § 1301.10 Fees.

(a) In general, TVA shall charge for processing requests under the FOIA in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, except where fees are limited under paragraph (d) of this section or where a waiver or reduction of fees is granted under paragraph (k) of this section. If the applicable fees are \$100 or more, TVA ordinarily will collect all applicable fees before sending copies of requested records to a requester. If the applicable fees are less than \$100, TVA ordinarily will bill the requester for the fees in the letter responding to the request and enclosing the requested records. Requesters must pay fees by check or money order made payable to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

(b) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

(1) *Commercial use request* means a request from or on behalf of a person who seeks information for a use or purpose that furthers his or her commercial, trade, or profit interests, which can include furthering those interests through litigation. TVA shall determine, whenever reasonably possible, the use to which a requester will put the requested records. When it appears that the requester will put the records to a commercial use, either because of the nature of the request itself or because TVA has reasonable cause to doubt a requester's stated use, TVA shall provide the requester a reasonable opportunity to submit further clarification.

(2) *Direct costs* means those expenses that TVA actually incurs in searching for and duplicating (and, in the case of commercial use requests, reviewing) records to respond to a FOIA request. Direct costs include, for example, the salary of the employee performing the work (the basic rate of pay for the employee, plus 16 percent of that rate to cover benefits, unless the fee is a standard TVA fee as set forth in paragraph (c) of this section) and the cost of operating duplication machinery. Not included in direct costs are overhead expenses such as the costs of space and heating or lighting of the facility in which the records are kept.

(3) *Duplication* means the making of a copy of a record, or of the information contained in it, necessary to respond to