



FEMA

December 19, 2019

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: foia@americanoversight.org

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Re: FEMA FOIA Case Number 2019-FEFO-00441

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), dated April 4, 2019 and received in this office on April 4, 2019. You are seeking all records regarding the impact of the partial government shutdown on the ability of federal employees, contractors, and grant recipients to attend the 2019 meeting of the American Meteorological Society. This request includes records of travel plans by agency employees, contractors, and grantee recipients that were postponed, rescheduled, or cancelled as a result of the shutdown. The responsive records date range is from December 22, 2018, through February 1, 2019. On April 17, 2019 you modified your request to the number of FEMA staff slated to attend the 2019 American Meteorological Society meeting, the cost of doing so and the cost of any canceled plans for attending the meeting.

We conducted a comprehensive search of files within FEMA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO). Unfortunately, we were unable to locate or identify any responsive records. The event happened January 6-10, 2019 during the government furlough and no FEMA staff attended the event.

You have the right to appeal if you disagree with FEMA's response. The procedure for administrative appeals is outlined in the DHS regulations at 6 C.F.R. § 5.8. In the event you wish to submit an appeal, we encourage you to both state the reason(s) you believe FEMA's initial determination on your FOIA request was erroneous in your correspondence, and include a copy of this letter with your appeal. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal within 90 days from the date of this letter to fema-foia@fema.dhs.gov, or alternatively, via mail at the following address:

FEMA
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Information Management Division (FOIA Appeals)
500 C Street, SW, Seventh Floor, Mail Stop 3172

Washington, D.C. 20472-3172

As part of the 2007 amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road- OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770/Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
Facsimile: 202-741-5769

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge.

If you need any further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact us and refer to FOIA case number **2019-FEFO-00441**. You may send an e-mail to fema-foia@fema.dhs.gov, call (202) 646-3323, or you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison in the same manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Bridges".

Greg Bridges
Branch Chief – Disclosure Branch
Information Management Division