



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7202.4-OS-2020-00171
(DOI-OS-2020-000353)

September 22, 2020

Via email: foia@americanoversight.org

Austin R. Evers
American Oversight,
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255,
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Evers:

The Office of the Secretary FOIA office received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated December 12, 2019, on December 12, 2019 and assigned it control number **OS-2020-00171** and now **DOI-OS-2020-000353** in FOIAonline. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request.

1) All email communications (including emails, email attachments, and calendar invitations) between (a) any of the employees listed in Column A below and (b) any of the individuals listed in Column B below, including but not limited to at the email addresses and domains specified:

Column A: Federal Government Employees:

- Policy Deputy Director Justin Abernathy

Column B: Outside entities:

- American Petroleum Institute Senior Policy Advisor Holly Hopkins (hopkinsh@api.org)
- American Petroleum Institute Senior Director Carrie Domnitch (domnitchc@api.org)

Please provide all responsive records from November 1, 2018 to March 30, 2019.

2) Any handwritten or electronic notes, including handouts provided in person or via email, or summaries or readouts of the meeting, from the calendar entry entitled "CALL: BSEE/DOI Final Revisions to the Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Rule (1014-AA39)" held on February 26, 2019 from 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

We are writing today to respond to your request. After a thorough search of our files, it has been determined that the Office of the Secretary has no records responsive to your request.

Leah Fairman, Office of the Secretary, Government Information Specialist is responsible for this denial.

Appeals

You may appeal this response to the Department's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this final response. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe this response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and the Office of the Secretary concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and this response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and the Office of the Secretary will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal.

DOI FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB
Washington, DC 20240
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office
Telephone: (202) 208-5339
Fax: (202) 208-6677
Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

Conclusion

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. 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://www.archives.gov/ogis>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you have any questions regarding the status of your request, or any of the issues discussed in this letter, you may contact our office by phone at (202) 513-0765, by fax at (202) 219-2374, by e-mail at os_foia@ios.doi.gov or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C St, N.W., MS-7328 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. Contact information for the Department's FOIA Public Liaison, who you may also seek dispute resolution services from, is available at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters>.

Sincerely,

**CYNTHIA
SWEENEY**

Cynthia Sweeney
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Office

Digitally signed by CYNTHIA
SWEENEY
Date: 2020.09.22 12:47:08
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