

Freedom Of Information Act
Electronic FOIA Request Detail

Request Number: 20181120110851798
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Reasonably Describe Records:

Description: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) ("FOIA"), Hanford Challenge respectfully requests copies of any and all written comments submitted to the Department of Energy in response to the Department's Notice of Availability of the Draft Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Evaluation for Closure of Waste Management Area C at the Hanford Site, Washington. 83 Fed. Reg. 25657, June 4, 2018 (hereinafter "Area C Draft WIR Determination") (comment deadline extended to this date, 83 Fed. Reg. 40758, August 16, 2018). This request seeks all comments, whether sent via the U.S. Post Office, submitted electronically, or otherwise. Hanford Challenge specifically requests that you undertake a search of all offices that may be in possession or control of these records at any location where responsive records might reasonably be found. If any records covered by this request have been destroyed and/or removed, or are destroyed and/or removed after receipt of this request, please provide all surrounding records, including but not limited to a list of all records which have been destroyed and/or removed, a description of the actions taken, relevant dates, and individual, office and/or agency-wide policies, and/or justifications for the action(s).

Optional Information:

Describe Yourself: Affiliated with an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, and this request is made for scholarly or scientific purpose and not for commercial use.

Cost Information: I request a waiver or reduction of fees.

Waiver Request:

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

1. We seek records in the possession and control of the Department of Energy (DOE) relating to comments submitted by interested members of the public to the Department concerning a proposal to leave what has been classified as high-level waste in a set of Hanford tanks. The Department of Energy, the owner and manager of the Hanford Site, has made this proposal in a Federal Register notice and invited public comment, making this function an identifiable operation of the government.

The informative value of the information to be disclosed: Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities.

The records requested in this FOIA request are not currently in the public domain or otherwise common knowledge among the general public. The requested communications will likely provide necessary insight into the public perceptions relating to the safety and compliance status of this federal facility.

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.

Hanford Challenge has already shared information obtained in the past and will share the specifically requested information with the broad public and specific media outlets:

The significance of the contribution to public understanding: Whether the disclosure is likely to contribute "significantly" to public understanding of government operations or activities.

a. The Hanford Challenge staff has many years of experience directly related to Hanford oversight and has unique expertise regarding the environmental, safety, and health issues associated with nuclear sites. Hanford Challenge, an independent non-profit and non-governmental agency, has been addressing cleanup and storage of nuclear and chemical waste at the Hanford Nuclear Site for almost a decade. Tom Carpenter, the Executive Director of Hanford Challenge, has been working on Hanford cleanup and waste storage issues for over 25 years.

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

1. Hanford Challenge, a non-profit public interest group, requests this information on behalf of our members and the public. Hanford challenge does not seek this information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial trade or profit interest of Hanford Challenge. 2. Hanford Challenge will not profit from the requested information. Hanford Challenge will not receive monetary or other benefits from disclosing the requested information to the public. 3. Hanford Challenge has never received a profit from a FOIA request and will not with this FOIA request.

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."

1. Hanford Challenge is not requesting the information for any private or commercial purpose and is a non-profit, public interest organization designated as a tax exempt entity under IRS code 501(c)(3). Our interest in the disclosure of these records is for public education, public participation, advocacy for public interest goals, and a more responsive and accountable government that promotes environmental protection and protection of human health and safety.

Waiver Cost Information: I agree to pay
\$75

Expedited Processing: n/a
n/a
n/a

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