



Eden Tadesse <etadesse@citizensforethics.org>

FW: Update on FOIA Request No. EPA-HQ-2018-004350

1 message

Anne Weismann <aweismann@citizensforethics.org>

Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 2:49 PM

To: Eden Tadesse <etadesse@citizensforethics.org>, Virginia Canter <vcanter@citizensforethics.org>

From: Griffo, Shannon [mailto:Griffo.Shannon@epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 2:48 PM

To: aweismann@citizensforethics.org

Subject: Update on FOIA Request No. EPA-HQ-2018-004350

Ms. Weismann,

Thank you for your FOIA Request No. EPA-HQ-2018-004350, received by the Agency on February 12, 2018, in which you requested the following: (1)“copies of all waivers EPA has issued to Dr. Nancy B. Beck pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b) since her appointment in May 2017, and copies of all authorizations to participate EPA has issued to Dr. Beck pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502 since May 1, 2017;” and (2)“all communications to or from Dr. Beck pertaining to all waivers or authorizations to participate Dr. Beck has requested and all waivers or authorizations to participate EPA has issued since Dr. Beck’s appointment in May 2017.”

In regards to the first part of your request, the EPA has not issued any financial conflict of interest waivers to Dr. Beck pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). Also, the EPA has released the two authorizations issued to Dr. Beck pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502 (impartiality determinations) through FOIA Online. You can look up FOIA Request EPA-HQ-2017-008283 for those responsive records. Please let me know if you can’t access those for any reason.

Since emails are included in your second part of the request, I wanted to give you a similar update to the one I previously provided for your other FOIA Request No. EPA-HQ-2017-005504. Our Ethics office has been extremely busy and short-staffed, and the Agency is still experiencing historic numbers of incoming FOIA requests. Since we have so many FOIAs, you may recall that we are using eDiscovery services to do a centralized search and collection of certain ethics related documents. We are still reviewing the thousands of documents produced from this search, which include records responsive to this request. I assume you are interested in communications from other offices in addition to our Ethics Office, so your request also requires coordination among those different EPA offices.

Because of the circumstances described above, it is difficult to predict with certainty how many records may be involved. But hopefully I can give you a better timeline soon. We will continue to diligently process your request and I will update you periodically on our review and production efforts. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me by email or at [202-564-7061](tel:202-564-7061).

Thanks,

Shannon

3/14/2018

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington Mail - FW: Update on FOIA Request No. EPA-HQ-2018-004350

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