

Morris, Alexander

From: FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2009 2:02 PM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

Name: (Ian Talley)

Organization: Dow Jones Newswires

Address:

1025 Connecticut Ave NW
Suite 800
Washington DC
20036

Phone: 202-862-9285

FAX:

Email: ian.talley@dowjones.com

Record Description:

Any (correspondence between Congressional offices and the Department of Energy regarding Vitrol oil contracts.) Any correspondence between DOE and Vitrol between January 2009 and the present.

Preferred Form or Format: email

Type of Requester (if provided):

A representative of the news media affiliated with Dow Jones Newswires, publishers of the Wall Street Journal and the request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.

Type of Media (if provided):

Other: Newswire

Fees and Fee Waivers:

I request a waiver or reduction of fees.

Waiver or Reduction of Fees Factors (if provided):

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

The request is clearly concerning the operations or activities of the government, as it regards contracts the government may be entering into to fill federally-owned strategic petroleum reserves.

2. 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 disclosure is likely to contribute to an understanding of government operations or activities, as it should reveal such aforementioned deals.

3. 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.

FOIA 2009-000242

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- Given that the request is made under the auspices of Dow Jones Newswires, a mainstream media organization whose primary task is informing the public, the disclosure is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations or activities.

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

- Given that the request is made under the auspices of Dow Jones Newswires, a mainstream media organization whose primary task is informing the public, the disclosure is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations or activities.

5. 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

- Dow Jones Newswires has no commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure

6. 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."

- The primary interest in disclosure is for the public disclosure of the workings and activities of the government.

Expedited Processing:

I believe a compelling need exists to warrant expedited processing because there is:

an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity exists (this option available ONLY for requesters primarily engaged in disseminating information)

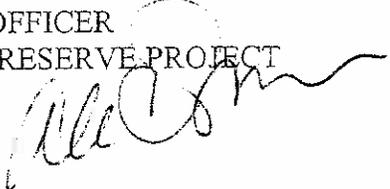
Specific Justification for Expedited Processing:



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 8, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: DEANNA HARVEY, FOIA OFFICER
STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE PROJECT

FROM: ALEXANDER C. MORRIS 
FOIA OFFICER
OFFICE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES

SUBJECT: FOIA REQUEST OF IAN TALLEY
(FOIA-2008-000242)

The attached request submitted by Mr. Ian Talley is transferred to your office for action. Mr. Talley submitted the request under the Freedom of Information Act. Please conduct a search for responsive documents and inform him of the results of the search.

The Office of Fossil Energy and the Office of Executive Secretariat also will conduct a search for responsive documents at HQ. They will provide a separate response unless it is determined that coordination is necessary.

For your information, I also attached a copy of our correspondence to Mr. Talley. If you have any additional questions about this transmittal, please contact Ms. Vera Dunmore of my staff on (202) 586-4047.

Attachments





Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 8, 2009

Mr. Ian Talley
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

Re: FOIA-2009-000242

Dear Mr. Talley:

This is in further response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. You asked for correspondence between Congressional offices and the Department of Energy regarding Vitol Oil contracts.

In our letter dated, April 7, 2009, I informed you that your request was assigned to the Office of Fossil Energy and the Office of Executive Secretariat to conduct a search of its files for responsive documents. Since that time, it has been determined that information you requested also falls under the jurisdiction of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Project (SPR). For this reason, I have sent the request to Ms. Deanna Harvey, the FOIA Officer at that location, to conduct a search of their files and to provide you a response.

For further information about your request, you may contact Ms. Deanna Harvey at the SPR at 900 Commerce Road East-MS FE-445, New Orleans, LA 70123. She also can be contacted on (504) 734-4316.

In compliance with the FOIA, the 20 day response time will begin when the SPR receives the request. Ms. Deanna Harvey will provide you a response about the releasability of any responsive documents that are located.

Upon completion of the search by SPR, a response will be provided to you. You may contact Ms. Vera Dunmore of my staff on (202) 586-4047 with any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Morris", is written over the typed name.

Alexander C. Morris
FOIA Officer
Office of Information Resources



Memorandum

Date: April 7, 2009

Reply to
Attn of: Vera Dunmore, MA-90

Subject: FOIA request of Ian Talley, FOIA-2009-000242

To: Brenda Mackall, MA-70
Wayne Young, FE-6

The attached Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from Ian Talley is being sent to you for action as responsive records appear to be within your organization. If your organization does not have jurisdiction over the responsive records, please inform me to whom you are forwarding the request.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY REQUEST CONTAINING CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRES CI AND MA-1 CONCURRENCE.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE DOCUMENTS YOU LOCATE ARE SPECIFICALLY RESPONSIVE TO THIS REQUEST, PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE CLASSIFIED.

If other divisions, offices or field organizations also have relevant records, you are responsible for requesting their participation and for coordinating the response. It is important that an appropriate response be forwarded to the requester within 20 working days as failure to respond can be deemed a denial.

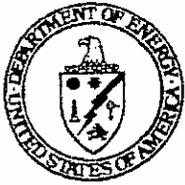
On the reverse side of this memorandum, a "Reminder of Procedures for Handling FOIA Requests" should assist your staff. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 586-4047.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

SIGNED

Vera Dunmore
FOIA and Privacy Act Office
Office of Information Resources

Attachment: requester letter



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 7, 2009

Mr. Ian Talley
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

Re: FOIA-2009-000242

Dear Mr. Talley:

This is in further response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. You asked for correspondence between Congressional offices and the Department of Energy regarding Vitol Oil contracts.

I have assigned your request to the Office of Fossil Energy & Office of Executive Secretariat to conduct a search of their files for responsive documents. Upon completion of the search and the review of any documents located, you will be provided a response.

For purposes of assessment of any fees, you have been categorized under the DOE regulation at Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1004.9(b)(3), as a "news media" requester. In this category, you will be charged duplication fees only and will be provided 100 pages at no cost.

Your letter requested that fees to process the request be waived. It has been determined, however, that fees to process will not exceed \$15.00, the minimum amount at which the Department assesses fees. For this reason, a determination about a waiver of fees was not necessary in this case.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request, please contact Mr. Wayne Young, Office of Fossil Energy, FE-6/ Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. He also can be contacted on (301) 903-7874.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request, please contact Ms. Brenda Mackall, Office of Executive Secretariat, MA-70/ Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. She also can be contacted on (202) 586-8923.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you. You may contact Vera Dunmore of my staff on (202) 586-4047 with any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,


Alexander C. Morris
FOIA Officer
Office of Information Resources

