



## Department of Energy

Strategic Petroleum Reserve Project Management Office  
900 Commerce Road East  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123

April 24, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Talley:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST NO. FI-00141

This letter is in response to your April 3, 2009, request to the Department of Energy Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)-Central Headquarters in Washington, D. C., where you are seeking correspondence between Congressional offices and the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding oil contracts, and any correspondence between DOE and Vitol from January 2009 to the present. Your request was transferred to this office on April 9, 2009 to conduct a search and review of applicable records in accordance with your request.

Please find all enclosed documents that were retrieved in accordance with the search for correspondence between DOE Strategic Petroleum Reserve Project Management Office and Vitol from January 2009 to the present. However, certain information concerning financial banking information from Vitol is being withheld pursuant to Exemption 4 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. The release of information submitted by Vitol that is related to bank routing and account numbers is authorized to be withheld under Exemption 4. Exemption 4 protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person as privileged or confidential. Information that is required to be submitted by a person is "confidential" for purposes of Exemption 4 if disclosure is likely to either (1) impair the Government's ability to obtain reliable and high quality necessary information in the future; or (2) cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the person from whom the information is obtained. The information redacted under Exemption 4 is "commercial" or "financial" information because it relates to business activities. Vitol is considered to be a person for purposes of Exemption 4.

Any Congressional correspondence between DOE and Vitol would be under the jurisdiction of the Office of Fossil Energy and the Office of the Executive Secretariat located in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ian Talley

April 24, 2009

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Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.7(b) (2), I am the individual primarily responsible for the above denial.

Title 10 CFR 1004.8(a) provides that an appeal may be pursued for portions of this letter which constitute a denial to your request. The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 CFR 1004.8 to the extent applicable. Such an appeal must be made in writing, within 30 calendar days of receipt of the denial, to the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, DOE, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585.

There are no fees associated with the processing of this request. If you need additional information or have any questions concerning this letter please contact Deanna Harvey at (504) 734-4316.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McWilliams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "W".

Michael McWilliams  
Assistant Project Manager  
Management and Administration

FE-445 (DHarvey)

Enclosures