

hesitated to remand a case where it is evident that the search conducted was in fact inadequate. *See, e.g., Project on Government Oversight, Case No. TFA-0489 (2011).**

In response to our inquiries, ORNL stated that it asked its legal group and contracts group to search for “any agreement or contract the laboratory had between China and ORNL regarding molten salt reactors,” and after conducting a search, both groups responded that they could not locate any responsive documents. *See* Email from Bryan Quilty, Lab Records Manager, ORNL, to Shiwali Patel, Attorney Advisor, OHA (Apr. 14, 2014). ORNL further explained that both groups maintain databases of the MOUs and contracts and that they used the following search terms to locate the requested documents: “ORNL,” “China,” “Molten Salt Reactor,” and “MSRE.” *See* Email from Bryan Quilty, Lab Records Manager, ORNL, to Shiwali Patel, Attorney Advisor, OHA (Apr. 15, 2014). Nonetheless, their search did not yield any responsive documents. Accordingly, based on the above, we conclude that ORO has conducted a reasonable search to uncover relevant documents. *See Valencia-Lucena, 180 F.3d at 325.*

Finally, after receipt of the Appeal, the DOE’s Office of Information Resources (OIR) stated that it would forward the Appellant’s FOIA Request to the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) to search for responsive documents. *See* Email from Alexander Morris, FOIA Officer, OIR, to Shiwali Patel, Attorney Advisor, OHA (Apr. 9, 2014). Thus, as requested by the Appellant, another DOE office will be conducting a search for the documents he requested. Accordingly, we will deny this Appeal.

It Is Therefore Ordered That:

(1) The Freedom of Information Act Appeal filed by the Appellant on March 26, 2014, OHA Case Number FIA-14-0019, is hereby denied.

(2) This is a final order of the Department of Energy from which any aggrieved party may seek judicial review pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4)(B). Judicial review may be sought in the district in which the requester resides or has a principal place of business, or in which the agency records are situated, or in the District of Columbia.

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Director
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Date: April 16, 2014