FOIA-2009-000646
8/6/2009

Morris, Alexander

From: FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2009 5:03 PM
To: FOIA-Central
Subject: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request

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OTHER: 2 HOURS SEARCH FREE, 00 FREE PAGES

Name: John Droz, jr.

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

FAX:

Email:

Record Description:

This is a formal Freedom Of Information Act Request. Since the referenced study was partially funded by the DOE, it is subject to FOIA regulations. (If needs be, please also reference the Shelby amendment.)

I am requesting information about the National Academies study committee that issued this report: "America's Energy Future: Electricity from Renewables: Technology Opportunities, Risks, and Tradeoffs" [PIN: DEPS-L-07-02-C].

Specifically, I'm asking for the following information regarding this committee:
1) A copy of all public comments made concerning the committee membership selection.

2) According to Dr. Peter D. Blair (Executive Director of Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences) there is specific oversight to "balance biases," so please identify on this committee exactly which committee members had which biases, and exactly how these were balanced.

3) Copies of the filled out Conflict of Interest form (BI/COI FORM 3: skip pages 5, 6, 7 & 8) that each committee member (plus "monitors" Elisabeth M. Drake, and Robert A. Frosch) submitted.

4) Copy of the minutes for all of the committee meetings.

5) The names of the people who selected this committee's study reviewers (i.e. those people listed on Page x of the Preface).

6) A full explanation of the general process for selecting reviewers.

7) A full explanation of how reviewer biases and conflicts of interest were identified and balanced, specifically regarding this particular study.

8) The email address for each of this study's reviewers.

If you have any question about any of these requests, please email me immediately at

Thank you for your prompt and complete response,

Preferred Form or Format: Word or PDf

Type of Requester (if provided):

Joan

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An individual seeking information for personal use and not for commercial use.

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."

This request is part of an investigation regarding the processes of the NAS, which directly concern the operations and activities of the government — the end user of such reports.

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.

NAS studies are utilized by the government for policy creation, and a better understanding of the process behind such studies will definitely contribute to a better understanding of government operations.

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.

As an independent science consultant, I write frequently about energy policies. This information will be widely disseminated.

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.

Such NAS studies are behind national energy policies, so revealing the workings behind the creation of such studies, will contribute significantly to public understanding of government 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

I have no commercial interest in this matter.

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."

I have no commercial interest in this matter.

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:

The federal government is currently considering energy policies that are germane to this study. For instance, the US Senate is considering the Markey-Waxman bill passed by the House. The key component in it is Renewable Energy. The essential question is the value of Renewable Energy — the topic of this study.