



OFFICE *of* GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

July 20, 2016 — Sent via email

[REDACTED]

Re: Case No. 201600080
NG: CM: KG

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS
COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

web: www.ogis.archives.gov
e-mail: ogis@nara.gov
phone: 202-741-5770
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
fax: 202-741-5769

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received on October 18, 2015 via email. Your request for assistance pertains to your records requests to the Department of Interior (DOI). We apologize for the delay, it took us a significant amount of time to obtain information from the agency regarding your request.

As you may be aware, OGIS was created to complement existing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. Please know that OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to process one request before others. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

OGIS provides mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. After opening a case, OGIS gathers information from the requester and the agency to learn more about the nature of the dispute. This process helps us gather necessary background information, assess whether the issues are appropriate for mediation, and determine the willingness of the parties to engage in our services. As part of our information gathering, OGIS carefully reviewed your submission of information regarding your DOI records requests to the Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) as well as your appeal to the DOI Office of the Solicitor (SOL).



FWS Requests Nos. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

You made two request to FWS on [REDACTED]. FWS provided tracking numbers for your requests, but you have not received final responses. OGIS contacted FWS to inquire about the status of your requests, and on November 20, 2015 FWS informed OGIS your requests were number 11 and 12 in the agency's processing queue. When OGIS checked back with the agency on May 27, 2016, your requests were number 2 and 3 in the agency's processing

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queue. FWS is currently working with the Office of the Solicitor to complete these requests, and cannot estimate the date by which it will complete your request.

OIG Request No. [REDACTED], DOI Appeal

You made a request to OIG on [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED], the OIG responded to your request [REDACTED], releasing 147 pages in part and invoked FOIA Exemptions 6 and 7(C), 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(6) and (b)(7)(C) for the withheld information. On [REDACTED], you appealed this determination; you asked OGIS to obtain the status of your appeal and a tracking number. On June 22, 2015, OGIS learned that the DOI Appeals Office transferred your appeal to OIG for processing because amended Departmental regulations permit the OIG's General Counsel to decide appeals of OIG FOIA requests. OIG assigned your appeal number [REDACTED]. While OIG was unable to provide OGIS with an estimated date of completion, the agency explained that the appeal is with an attorney for review.

USGS Request No. [REDACTED]

You made a request to USGS on [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED], USGS informed you that there were over 13,000 pages responsive to your request, and that some of those pages require consultation with FWS and OIG. OGIS inquired about the status of this request, and learned that as of [REDACTED], the records are in legal review.

I hope that this information about your requests is useful to you. Thank you for contacting OGIS; we will now consider this matter closed.

Sincerely,

/s/

NIKKI GRAMIAN
Acting Director

cc: Cindy Cafaro, Departmental FOIA Officer, Department of the Interior

We appreciate your feedback. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OGIS> to take a brief anonymous survey on the service you received from OGIS.