



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF THE USE OF “STILL INTERESTED” LETTERS

PART 1: HISTORICAL TRENDS

RELATIVELY FEW REQUESTS REPORTED CLOSED, BETTER REPORTING NEEDED

Summary

In the course of processing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, some Federal agencies ask requesters if they are still interested in the requested records. Typically, the agency sets a deadline for the requester’s affirmative response; receiving none, the agency closes the request. The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which reviews agency FOIA policies, procedures and compliance, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(h)(2)(A) and (h)(2)(B), reviewed agency use of these “still interested” letters. This report discusses our findings related to the historical use of these letters based on data reported in the FOIA Annual Reports to the Attorney General of the United States (hereafter referred to as Annual FOIA Reports) for Fiscal Years (FY) 1998 to 2014 for the 15 Cabinet-level agencies.

Findings

We found that:

- the number of FOIA requests Cabinet-level agencies reported closing using still interested letters accounted for less than 1 percent of all FOIA requests processed by those agencies in all but one of the last 17 fiscal years;
- the number of requests agencies reported as closing using still interested letters does not appear to have a large effect on the number of requests the agency reported pending at the end of the fiscal year;
- there is no guidance or standard for reporting requests that agencies close using still interested letters; for this reason, it is difficult to get a true picture of how often these letters are used; and
- current reporting does not capture the full effect of the use of still interested letters on FOIA requesters.

Background

On October 30, 2014, the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) and a coalition of open government groups asked OGIS to review agency use of still interested letters to administratively close FOIA requests.¹ The groups asked that we review “this practice and its impact on FOIA requesters as a barrier to pursuing government records.” The letter specifically asked us: “How often are [still interested letters] sent to requesters? How widespread is this practice across federal agencies? What is the source of this tactic—what trainings and guidance created it?” and “What percentage of requests subject to administrative closure letters end up being closed?”

OGIS Director James Holzer informed EPIC on August 27, 2015, that he had directed the OGIS Compliance Team to include agency use of still interested letters as part of its agency compliance assessments, and that the team would review the use of still interested letters government-wide.

“Still interested” correspondence is a letter or an email that an agency sends to a FOIA requester asking if the requester remains interested in the requested records despite the time that elapsed since the request was filed. These letters are generally sent to the requester a significant amount of time after the FOIA request is made and inform the requester that if he or she does not indicate interest within a certain time, the agency will not process the request and will administratively close it. Sometimes it is the first communication—other than an acknowledgement letter sent upon receipt of the request—that the agency has with the requester.

These letters can give the appearance to requesters—particularly frequent savvy requesters—that an agency’s FOIA process does not work.

It is not clear when agencies began using still interested letters or how the practice spread, but our review of Annual FOIA Reports indicates that agencies have used them for nearly two decades: we found reference to still interested letters in the Department of Justice’s FY 1998 Annual FOIA Report.²

Although FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, is silent on the use of still interested letters, it appears that the Office of Information Policy (OIP) at the Department of Justice first provided guidance on the use of still interested letters in 2010: “The Importance of Good Communication with FOIA Requesters.”³ On July 2, 2015, OIP issued updated guidance, “Limitations on Use of Still Interested Inquiries.”⁴ OIP’s 2015 guidance instructs agencies to take several steps when using still interested letters, including:

- attempting to contact the requester using the requester’s preferred mode of communication;
- providing the requester with no fewer than 30 working days to respond to the inquiry before closing the request; and
- re-opening the request if the requester responds to the inquiry within a “reasonable” amount of time after the agency’s deadline.⁵

¹ Letter to OGIS Director Miriam Nisbet from the Electronic Privacy Information Center and a coalition of open government groups, October 30, 2014, accessed February 29, 2016, http://foia.rocks/OGIS_Letter_final.pdf.

² See Appendix C.

³ “The Importance of good Communication with FOIA Requesters” last updated August 21, 2014, <http://www.justice.gov/oip/blog/foia-post-2010-oip-guidance-importance-good-communication-foia-requesters>.

⁴ “Limitations on the Use of ‘Still-Interested’ Inquiries,” last updated July 20, 2015, <http://www.justice.gov/oip/oip-guidance-8>.

⁵ “reasonable” is not defined in the guidance. “Limitations on the Use of ‘Still-Interested’ Inquiries.”

While an agency’s use of a still interested letter has been referenced in FOIA litigation, we were not able to identify any case law addressing the use of a still interested letter to close a FOIA request.

We have observed two types of still interested letters. Generally, agencies inform a requester that the request will be closed unless the requester responds by a certain deadline. The other type of still interested letter we observed is correspondence informing requesters that their request is closed and stating that they should contact the agency if they were still interested in the agency processing their requests. For example, in 2012 Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a component of DHS, used the second type of still interested letter to administratively close 11,000 FOIA requests; the agency had to re-open the requests and process them.⁶ CBP FOIA managers informed us in a recent OGIS compliance assessment that the FOIA Office has not used still interested letters since FY 2012.

While agencies may report closing requests using still interested letters in their annual FOIA reports, there is no requirement to do so. In addition to reporting on the total number of cases processed each fiscal year, OIP requires that agencies report on the total number of requests that are closed administratively. OIP also requires that agencies categorize all of the administrative closures—referred to as “full denials based on reasons other than exemptions” in the reports—into one of the nine sub-categories.” These sub-categories are:

- no records
- all records referred to another component or agency
- request withdrawn
- fee related reason
- records not reasonably described
- improper FOIA request for other reason
- not agency record
- duplicate request
- other

If the agency reports requests under the category “other,” OIP requires that the agency describe the reason separately. In describing other reasons, some agencies directly note a lack of a response to a still interested letter.

Methodology

As part of OGIS’s mandate to review agency FOIA policies, procedures, and compliance, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(h)(2)(A) and (h)(2)(B), we reviewed the following resources for this report:

- Examples of still interested letters to administratively close pending requests⁷
- Guidance on the use of still interested letters issued in 2010 and 2015 by OIP
- Data from the Fiscal Year 1998 – 2014 Annual FOIA Reports
- Relevant case law

⁶ “Freedom of Information Act: DHS Should Take Steps to Improve Cost Reporting and Eliminate Duplicate Processing, GAO 15-82,” published November 2014; “Why customs officials struggle to fulfill Obama’s open-government promise,” Robert O’Harrow Jr., The Washington Post, March 13, 2015, https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/why-customs-officials-struggle-to-fulfill-obamas-open-government-promise/2015/03/12/27ee9b44-c12b-11e4-9271-610273846239_story.html.

⁷ We reviewed examples submitted by open government groups and observed during OGIS mediation cases and compliance reviews.

It is important to note that our review of the Annual FOIA Report data makes several assumptions based on the existing reporting framework required by FOIA. The data does not tell us how many FOIA requesters are sent still interested letters; how many times a particular requester is sent a still interested letter; or how much time has passed between when the agency last contacted the requester and when the agency sent the still interested letter.

There is no requirement that agencies report to OIP how many times they close requests using still interested letters although some agencies do report such information. FOIA requires agencies to report annually the numbers of requests received and processed, the average and median response times for different types of requests and the number of pending requests at the end of the fiscal year, among other data.

When an agency administratively closes requests, it reports those closures to OIP as “full denials based on reasons other than exemptions.” Requests in this category are further categorized into nine sub-categories, including “other.” If the agency reports requests under the category “other,” OIP requires that the agency describe the reason separately. In describing “other” reasons, some agencies note a lack of a response to a still interested letter, while other agencies reported reasons that *might* be attributed to a lack of a response to a still interested letter, such as “no response from requester” or “unable to contact requester.” We also note that it is possible that agencies reported requests closed using a still interested letter in the “request withdrawn” subcategory.

We used available data from Annual FOIA Reports to review historical trends in the use of still interested letters. Specifically, we reviewed publicly available Annual FOIA Reports from the 15 Cabinet-level agencies for FY 1998 through FY 2014.⁸ In analyzing the data for each agency, we identified the number of times each year the agency reported closing a request for an “other” reason that is clearly identified as a still interested letter. We also reviewed the data showing the number of requests each agency processed each fiscal year and the number of pending requests at the end of each fiscal year (See Appendix C).⁹

Department	Annual Report Data Available	Department	Annual Report Data Available
USDA	FY 2000 – FY 2014	DOI	FY 1998 – FY 2014
Commerce	FY 1998 – FY 2014	DOJ	FY 1998 – FY 2014
DOD	FY 1998 – FY 2014	Labor	FY 1998 – FY 2014
Ed	FY 1998 – FY 2014	State	FY 1998 – FY 2014
Energy	FY 1998 – FY 2014	DOT	FY 2004 – FY 2014
HHS	FY 1998 – FY 2014	Treasury	FY 1998 – FY 2014
DHS	FY 2003 – FY 2014	VA	FY 1998 – FY 2014
HUD	FY 1998 – FY 2014		

⁸ The 15 Cabinet-level agencies are the Department of Agriculture (USDA); Department of Commerce (Commerce); Department of Defense (DOD); Department of Education (Ed); Department of Energy (Energy); Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Department of the Interior (DOI); Department of Justice (DOJ); Department of Labor (Labor); Department of State (State); Department of Transportation (DOT); Department of Treasury (Treasury); and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). DHS was created in 2003, and Annual FOIA Reports for USDA and DOT are available as early as FY 2000 and FY 2004, respectively.

⁹ Pursuant to Executive Order 13392, "Improving Agency Disclosure of Information," OIP directed agencies to begin reporting on its FOIA backlog in FY 2008 Annual FOIA Reports; previously agencies reported on the number of requests pending; see <https://www.justice.gov/oip/blog/foia-post-2008-summary-annual-foia-reports-fy-2007> and <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/oip/blog-entries/attachments/2014/10/24/guidance-annualreport-052008.pdf>.

Analysis

Few Requests Reported Closed Using Still Interested Letters

Cabinet-level agencies as a whole reported closing an average of about 2,455 requests per year using still interested letters. The number of requests that agencies reported closing by using still interested letters is small compared to the number of requests the agencies processed: in all but one of the 17 reporting periods, the number of requests closed using still interested letters accounted for less than 1 percent of all FOIA requests processed.

Cabinet-level agencies' use of reported still interested letters to close requests

Fiscal Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total reported still interested letters	6	2	0	0	2	176	2	1,079	416
Total processed	667,549	1,616,331	1,846,576	1,863,735	2,019,082	2,453,792	2,502,322	2,552,415	2,589,539
Percent	0.0009%	0.0001%	0.0000%	0.0000%	0.0001%	0.0072%	0.0001%	0.0423%	0.0161%
Fiscal Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Total reported still interested letters	22,265	1,013	120	12,018	1,117	1,262	1,920	343	
Total processed	2,692,546	491,639	489,906	475,653	495,728	534,198	536,051	523,976	
Percent	0.8269%	0.2060%	0.0245%	2.5266%	0.2253%	0.2362%	0.3582%	0.0655%	

**Number of requests reported processed between 1999 and 2007 appears large because several agencies included Privacy Act requests.*

In both FY 2000 and in FY 2001, Cabinet-level agencies did not report closing any requests using still interested letters.

Six of the 15 Cabinet-level agencies did not report closing requests using still interested letters between FY 1998 to FY 2014: Commerce, Ed, Energy, Labor, State, and DOT.

Five of the Cabinet-level agencies—USDA, DOD, Interior, Treasury, and VA—reported closing a nominal number of requests using still interested letters in one to three reporting periods; the number of requests reported as closed using still interested letters ranged from two cases reported by USDA in FY 2014 to 75 cases reported by Treasury in FY 2008.

Justice sporadically reported using still interested letters to close a small number of cases per fiscal year—typically fewer than 10—between FY 1998 and FY 2006. In FY 2010, HUD reported closing 297 cases using still interested letters; this number also includes requests closed because of what the agency reported as “clarification.”

Agencies reported use still interested letters and requests processed***

		USDA	DOD	HHS	DHS	HUD	DOI	DOJ	Treasury	VA
FY 1998	Still interested	--	0	0	--	0	0	6	0	0
	Processed	--	106,191	67,367	--	2,827	5,002	195,105	56,184	208,740
FY 1999	Still interested	--	0	0	--	0	0	2	0	0
	Processed	--	97,171	59,847	--	3,513	5,609	223,644	57,325	1,139,214
FY 2002	Still interested	0	0	0	--	0	0	2	0	0
	Processed	78,026	76,943	103,163	--	4,171	4,378	184,928	47,812	1,489,724
FY 2003	Still interested	0	0	0	175	0	0	1	0	0
	Processed	68,163	73,814	144,143	160,902	2,788	4,679	54,583	59,814	1,851,756
FY 2004	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Processed	61,209	77,256	222,408	152,027	3,978	4,219	56,865	64,570	1,815,505
FY 2005	Still interested	0	0	1074*	0	0	0	5	0	0
	Processed	51,922	78,775	221,402	126,126	2,923	6,420	51,435	53,987	1,915,013
FY 2006	Still interested	0	0	408*	0	0	0	8	0	0
	Processed	59,065	79,266	256,573	111,943	2,631	5,086	54,925	39,518	1,937,088
FY 2007	Still interested	0	0	1,402	20,861	0	0	2	0	0
	Processed	31,651	78,392	290,315	135,297	7,661	5,437	53,889	28,785	2,011,887
FY 2008	Still interested	0	33	894	0	0	7	0	75	4
	Processed	12,650	71,699	66,583	109,028	3,066	4,750	61,272	21,352	98,455
FY 2009	Still interested	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	28	0
	Processed	13,416	68,133	50,337	160,007	3,049	5,088	60,217	19,980	71,487
FY 2010	Still interested	0	0	11,701	0	297**	0	0	20	0
	Processed	19,962	74,790	69,860	138,651	3,277	5,945	63,368	18,564	28,857
FY 2011	Still interested	0	0	1,117	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Processed	22,939	75,648	70,179	145,631	2,882	5,909	63,992	16,683	27,891
FY 2012	Still interested	0	0	1,262	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Processed	21,686	66,651	69,256	205,895	2,544	6,285	68,531	16,705	24,785
FY 2013	Still interested	0	0	1,920	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Processed	21,556	67,679	67,125	204,332	2,400	6,363	68,241	14,915	26,673
FY 2014	Still interested	2	0	341	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Processed	19,243	59,321	42,293	238,031	2,224	5,647	63,026	13,990	27,982

* includes "publicly available"

** includes "clarification"

***see Appendix A for larger table

The HHS consistently reported closing requests using still interested letters from FY 2005 to FY 2014. During this period, HHS reported closing 20,211 requests using still interested letters—which accounts for less than 2 percent of the requests processed by the agency.

In FY 2007, Cabinet-level agencies reported closing the largest number of requests using a still interested letter: 22,265 requests, accounting for 0.83 percent of the total number of requests processed.

Agency reported use of still interested letters: FY 2007*

		USDA	Commerce	DOD	ED	Energy	HHS	DHS	HUD	DOI	DOJ	Labor	State	DOT	Treasury	VA	Total
FY 2007	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	1,402	20,861	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	22,265
	Processed	31,651	1,949	78,392	1,670	3,698	290,315	135,297	7,661	5,437	53,889	27,581	4,792	9,542	28,785	2,011,887	2,692,546

*See Appendix B for larger table

Only two agencies reported closing requests using still interested letters in FY 2007: HHS and DHS. Ninety-seven percent of the 22,265 requests reported as closed using still interested letters were reported by DHS.¹⁰ The 20,861 requests that DHS reported as closed using still interested letters accounted for 15 percent of the requests DHS processed that year. DHS reported closing requests using still interested letters in only one other reporting period: the agency reported 175 requests closed using a still interested letters in FY 2003, which accounts for far less than 1 percent of the total requests DHS processed during that reporting period.

Effect of Still Interested Letters on Requests Pending Appears Small

Some FOIA requesters say that agencies use still interested letters to help control or reduce the agency’s backlog, particularly as the end of a fiscal year nears.¹¹ A request is counted as backlogged if it has been open for longer than the 20 working days that the statute provides agencies to respond to requests.¹² Beginning in FY 2008, agencies began reporting on their backlog in FOIA Annual Reports. Since agencies did not begin consistently reporting on backlog until FY 2008, we reviewed the data to assess the relationship between the number of reported requests closed using still interested letters and the number of pending requests reported at the end of each Fiscal Year. The number of pending requests is generally larger than the backlog, because it counts requests that have not yet reached the 20-working-day response time included in the law.

We found no clear relationship between Cabinet-level agencies’ reported use of still interested letters to close requests and the number of requests that the agency reported pending at the end of the year. There are only 25 instances when the 15 Cabinet-level agencies reported closing requests using still interested letters during the 17 reporting periods we reviewed (FY 1998 – FY 2014).

¹⁰ Almost 85 percent of the requests DHS reported as closed using a still interested letter were closed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

¹¹ “Agencies want to know: Are you still interested?” The News Media and The Law, Fall 2014, accessed April 26, 2016, <http://www.rcfp.org/browse-media-law-resources/news-media-law/news-media-and-law-fall-2014/agencies-want-know-are-you-st>.

¹² Agencies began focusing on the size of the backlog as a result of Executive Order (EO) 13392, "Improving Agency Disclosure of Information," which requires that all agencies with a backlog develop a plan to reduce the backlog, <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2005-12-19/pdf/05-24255.pdf>.

Agencies reported use still interested letters and requests pending***

		USDA	DOD	HHS	DHS	HUD	DOI	DOJ	Treasury	VA	Total
FY 1998	Still interested	--	0	0	--	0	0	6	0	0	6
	Pending	--	10240	18739	--	1456	545	25304	7014	12361	
FY 1999	Still interested	--	0	0	--	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Pending	--	11407	17148	--	4440	591	33179	5057	33632	
FY 2002	Still interested	0	0	0	--	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Pending	2012	12543	19308	--	671	902	32545	7681	42666	
FY 2003	Still interested	0	0	0	175	0	0	1	0	0	176
	Pending	1778	13128	21265	28958	1910	1471	7574	5772	45076	
FY 2004	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
	Pending	2372	12826	23545	45810	2421	1798	8055	5538	39005	
FY 2005	Still interested	0	0	1074*	0	0	0	5	0	0	1079
	Pending	1965	14953	24515	82591	3725	1910	8637	4883	37698	
FY 2006	Still interested	0	0	408*	0	0	0	8	0	0	416
	Pending	1868	18216	26063	108472	4941	1481	8004	3924	38696	
FY 2007	Still interested	0	0	1,402	20861	0	0	2	0	0	22,265
	Pending	1683	26195	28134	83661	764	876	7649	3066	35366	
FY 2008	Still interested	0	33	894	0	0	7	0	75	4	1013
	Pending	1678	14660	19470	83742	697	905	6302	2656	5979	
FY 2009	Still interested	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	28	0	120
	Pending	1220	13944	17571	27182	406	1137	7412	2751	2677	
FY 2010	Still interested	0	0	11701	0	297**	0	0	20	0	12018
	Pending	1608	12115	11612	18633	182	1200	7538	1144	1385	
FY 2011	Still interested	0	0	1117	0	0	0	0	0	0	1117
	Pending	1347	10224	8864	48493	128	1030	6897	1236	1537	
FY 2012	Still interested	0	0	1262	0	0	0	0	0	0	1262
	Pending	1839	9452	8001	55837	278	893	8000	1089	1441	
FY 2013	Still interested	0	0	1920	0	0	0	0	0	0	1920
	Pending	2845	9862	7800	65676	266	868	10298	1198	1786	
FY 2014	Still interested	2	0	341	0	0	0	0	0	0	343
	Pending	3470	11672	9784	120308	409	1614	12910	1519	2443	

*includes "publicly available"

** includes "clarification"

***No still interested letters reported in FY 2000 and FY 2001

As previously discussed, the number of requests that agencies reported closing using still interested letters was relatively small—there are only 11 instances when Cabinet-level agencies reported closing more than 100 requests using still interested letters between FY 1998 and FY 2014. Only two agencies—HHS and DHS—reported closing more than 500 requests using still interested letters during any of the reporting periods. HHS accounted for seven of the eight instances in which an agency reported closing more than 500 requests using still interested letters.

The number of requests the agency reported as closed using still interested letters generally appeared to have had little effect on the number of requests the agency reported as pending at the end of the fiscal year. By adding the number of requests the agency reported as closing with still interested letters to the number the agency reported as pending at the end of the fiscal year, we projected the number the agency would have reported as pending if it had not used still interested letters during the reporting period. The projected number of pending requests would have increased by more than 3 percent in only three instances—the number of pending requests at HHS would have increased by about 4.4 percent in FY 2005, the number of pending requests at DHS would have increased by about 15.5 percent in FY 2007 and requests pending would have increased by almost 17 percent at HHS in FY 2010.

		HHS	Percent Change by Use of Still Interested	DHS	Percent Change by Use of Still Interested
FY 2005	Still interested	1,074	4.3810%		
	Actual Pending	24,515			
	Pending without use of Still Interested	25,589			
FY 2007	Still interested	1,402	0.4829%	20,861	15.4187%
	Actual Pending	290,315		135,297	
	Pending without use of Still Interested	291,717		156,158	
FY 2008	Still interested	894	1.3427%		
	Actual Pending	66,583			
	Pending without use of Still Interested	67,477			
FY 2010	Still interested	11,701	16.7492%		
	Actual Pending	69,860			
	Pending without use of Still Interested	81,561			
FY 2011	Still interested	1,117	1.5916%		
	Actual Pending	70,179			
	Pending without use of Still Interested	71,296			
FY 2012	Still interested	1,262	1.8222%		
	Pending	69,256			
	Pending without use of Still Interested	70,518			
FY 2013	Still interested	1,920	2.8603%		
	Actual Pending	67,125			
	Pending without use of Still Interested	69,045			

Conclusions

Available Data Does Not Account for Full Effect of Still Interested Letters

As previously stated, available data regarding agency use of still interested letters is limited. In particular, the data does not allow us to account for how many still interested letters an agency sends out during a reporting period, how much time has passed between the agency's last correspondence with the requester and when the still interested letter is sent, or how many times a particular requester is sent a still interested letter before an agency completes processing his or her request.

No Guidance or Standards for Reporting Requests Closed Using Still Interested Letters

During our review of agency data, we noted that the sample of still interested letters provided to us by non-governmental organizations included correspondence from several agencies that did not report closing any requests using still interested letters in FY 2014. It is possible, but unlikely, that requesters responded to every single still interested letter that these agencies sent. Through our mediation and compliance work, we are aware of several agencies that regularly use still interested letters, but have not reported closing any requests using these letters.

We found no guidance or standards related to how agencies should report requests closed using still interested letters. We note that agencies reported closing requests administratively using an "other" method that might be used to describe a still interested letter. The particular categories we noted that might be used to describe a still interested letter were "no response from requester" and "unable to contact requester." We also noted that agencies could reasonably report requests closed using a still interested letter as "withdrawn."

Summary and Next Steps

Available data indicates that very few FOIA requests are closed using still interested letters and that there is no clear relationship between agency use of still interested letters and the number of requests the agency reports as pending. However, the data is limited because of a lack of clear guidance and standards regarding how agencies *should* report cases closed using still interested. Furthermore, the data does not allow us to judge the overall effect that still interested letters have on requesters, or what kinds of policies and practices agencies have regarding their use.

Further study, including a review of agency policies and practices, is necessary to better understand the issues surrounding the use of still interested letters and to make recommendations regarding their use. We assess agency use of still interested letters as part of our agency compliance program, but we do not yet have enough information about agency practices to draw conclusions.

Appendix A

		USDA	DOD	HHS	DHS	HUD	DOI	DOJ	Treasury	VA
FY 1998	Still interested	--	0	0	--	0	0	6	0	0
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FY 2008	Still interested	0	33	894	0	0	7	0	75	4
	Processed	12,650	71,699	66,583	109,028	3,066	4,750	61,272	21,352	98,455
FY 2009	Still interested	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	28	0
	Processed	13,416	68,133	50,337	160,007	3,049	5,088	60,217	19,980	71,487
FY 2010	Still interested	0	0	11,701	0	297	0	0	20	0
	Processed	19,962	74,790	69,860	138,651	3,277	5,945	63,368	18,564	28,857
FY 2011	Still interested	0	0	1,117	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Processed	22,939	75,648	70,179	145,631	2,882	5,909	63,992	16,683	27,891
FY 2012	Still interested	0	0	1,262	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Processed	21,686	66,651	69,256	205,895	2,544	6,285	68,531	16,705	24,785
FY 2013	Still interested	0	0	1,920	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Processed	21,556	67,679	67,125	204,332	2,400	6,363	68,241	14,915	26,673
FY 2014	Still interested	2	0	341	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Processed	19,243	59,321	42,293	238,031	2,224	5,647	63,026	13,990	27,982

Appendix B

		USDA	Commerce	DOD	ED	Energy	HHS	DHS	HUD	DOI	DOJ	Labor	State	DOT	Treasury	VA	Total
FY 2007	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	1,402	20,861	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	22,265
	Processed	31,651	1,949	78,392	1,670	3,698	290,315	135,297	7,661	5,437	53,889	27,581	4,792	9,542	28,785	2,011,887	2,692,546

Appendix C

		USDA	Commerce	DOD	Ed	Energy	HHS	DHS	HUD	DOI	DOJ	Labor	State	DOT	Treasury	VA	Total
FY 1998	Still interested	--	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	6	0	0	--	0	0	6
	Processed	--	2,283	106,191	1,679	2,314	67,367	--	2,827	5,002	195,105	17,540	2,317	--	56,184	208,740	667,549
	Pending	--	157	10,240	137	741	18,739	--	1,456	545	25,304	994	5,349	--	7,014	12,361	
FY 1999	Still interested	--	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	2	0	0	--	0	0	2
	Processed	--	1,899	97,171	1,711	2,387	59,847	--	3,513	5,609	223,644	20,187	3,824	--	57,325	1,139,214	1,616,331
	Pending	--	259	11,407	363	810	17,148	--	4,440	591	33,179	942	5,241	--	5,057	33,632	
FY 2000	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0
	Processed	139,503	2,026	96,479	1,695	2,649	60,060	--	2,878	4,966	235,090	22,505	3,070	--	45,111	1,230,544	1,846,576
	Pending	2,615	268	11,630	298	1,000	18,685	--	1,022	791	33,085	906	5,782	--	6,826	37,655	
FY 2001	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0
	Processed	83,194	2,232	80,357	1,555	2,673	62,599	--	3,251	4,961	194,612	19,840	3,329	--	54,469	1,350,663	1,863,735
	Pending	3,038	219	12,696	289	1,572	17,517	--	1,632	931	35,396	1,288	6,214	--	8,947	36,201	
FY 2002	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	2	0	0	--	0	0	2
	Processed	78,026	2,063	76,943	1,718	3,319	103,163	--	4,171	4,378	184,928	18,201	4,636	--	47,812	1,489,724	2,019,082
	Pending	2,012	298	12,543	219	1,027	19,308	--	671	902	32,545	809	5,343	--	7,681	42,666	
FY 2003	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	0	175	0	0	1	0	0	--	0	0	176
	Processed	68,163	1,981	73,814	1,840	2,371	144,143	160,902	2,788	4,679	54,583	21,185	5,773	--	59,814	1,851,756	2,453,792
	Pending	1,778	292	13,128	214	1,013	21,265	28,958	1,910	1,471	7,574	586	3,008	--	5,772	45,076	

Appendix C

FY 2004	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Processed	61,209	2,035	77,256	2,082	2,440	222,408	152,027	3,978	4,219	56,865	21,860	4,963	10,905	64,570	1,815,505	2,502,322
	Pending	2,372	308	12,826	348	862	23,545	45,810	2,421	1,798	8,055	559	1,996	1,971	5,538	39,005	
FY 2005	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	1074*	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1,079
	Processed	51,922	1,834	78,775	2,219	3,821	221,402	126,126	2,923	6,420	51,435	23,284	3,870	9,384	53,987	1,915,013	2,552,415
	Pending	1,965	278	14,953	545	1,159	24,515	82,591	3,725	1,910	8,637	780	2,728	2,072	4,883	37,698	
FY 2006	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	408*	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	416
	Processed	59,065	1,987	79,266	1,904	3,861	256,573	111,943	2,631	5,086	54,925	23,068	3,866	8,758	39,518	1,937,088	2,589,539
	Pending	1,868	309	18,216	539	910	26,063	108,472	4,941	1,481	8,004	906	3,799	2,197	3,924	38,696	
FY 2007	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	1,402	20,861	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	22,265
	Processed	31,651	1,949	78,392	1,670	3,698	290,315	135,297	7,661	5,437	53,889	27,581	4,792	9,542	28,785	2,011,887	2,692,546
	Pending	1,683	212	26,195	663	646	28,134	83,661	764	876	7,649	1,269	4,085	2,194	3,066	35,366	
FY 2008	Still interested	0	0	33	0	0	894	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	75	4	1,013
	Processed	12,650	1,885	71,699	2,236	1,714	66,583	109,028	3,066	4,750	61,272	20,970	5,577	10,402	21,352	98,455	491,639
	Pending	1,678	256	14,660	344	311	19,470	83,742	697	905	6,302	1,097	4,629	1,795	2,656	5,979	
FY 2009	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	120
	Processed	13,416	2,092	68,133	2,232	1,752	50,337	160,007	3,049	5,088	60,217	16,810	6,024	9,282	19,980	71,487	489,906
	Pending	1,220	253	13,944	419	414	17,571	27,182	406	1,137	7,412	1,065	9,313	1,487	2,751	2,677	
FY 2010	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	11,701	0	297**	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	12,018
	Processed	19,962	2,021	74,790	2,077	2,149	69,860	138,651	3,277	5,945	63,368	17,625	18,386	10,121	18,564	28,857	475,653
	Pending	1,608	267	12,115	456	465	11,612	18,633	182	1,200	7,538	943	21,135	1,702	1,144	1,385	

Appendix C

FY 2011	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	1,117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,117
	Processed	22,939	2,209	75,648	2,486	2,222	70,179	145,631	2,882	5,909	63,992	18,129	26,836	12,092	16,683	27,891	495,728
	Pending	1,347	296	10,224	391	558	8,864	48,493	128	1,030	6,897	1,143	8,715	1,612	1,236	1,537	
FY 2012	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	1,262	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,262
	Processed	21,686	1,701	66,651	2,346	2,258	69,256	205,895	2,544	6,285	68,531	19,224	15,343	10,988	16,705	24,785	534,198
	Pending	1,839	340	9,452	359	552	8,001	55,837	278	893	8,000	1,475	11,789	1,479	1,089	1,441	
FY 2013	Still interested	0	0	0	0	0	1,920	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,920
	Processed	21,556	1,793	67,679	2,421	2,046	67,125	204,332	2,400	6,363	68,241	19,175	21,097	10,235	14,915	26,673	536,051
	Pending	2,845	358	9,862	43	581	7,800	65,676	266	868	10,298	1,246	9,491	1,766	1,198	1,786	
FY 2014	Still interested	2	0	0	0	0	341	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	343
	Processed	19,243	1,776	59,321	2,147	2,274	42,293	238,031	2,224	5,647	63,026	16,715	18,094	11,213	13,990	27,982	523,976
	Pending	3,470	486	11,672	391	522	9,784	120,308	409	1,614	12,910	1,187	10,974	2,536	1,519	2,443	

* includes "publicly available"

**includes "clarification"