



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

John Greenewald
The Black Vault
27305 W. Live Oak Rd., Suite #1203
Castaic, CA 91384

Via email: john@greenewald.com

Re: HQ-2024-01974-F

Dear John Greenewald:

This is a final response to the request for information that you sent to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You requested the following:

I respectfully request a copy of records (which includes videos/photos), electronic or otherwise, of the following: All emails sent to, from, or cc'd/bcc'd Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, containing any of the following keywords/phrases:

- "UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL"
- "UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS"
- UAP
- UAPTF
- UFO
- "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING"
- AOIMSG
- AARO
- ELIZONDO
- GRUSCH

Please limit the scope of this search from February 25, 2021 – date of processing this request.

Please include ALL ATTACHMENTS found in these emails, along with searching all classified and unclassified emails for responsive records.

In a September 29, 2025 email with Susan Plant, of my office, you agreed to waive production of news bulletins. In an October 31, 2025, email with Susan Plant, of my office, you agreed to limit emails to the name of "Luis" Elizondo.

Your request was assigned to DOE's Office of the Secretary (S). The search started on September 4, 2024, which is the cut-off date for responsive records. At this time, DOE has completed



its search and identified two (2) documents responsive to your request. These documents are being released to you as described in the accompanying index.

Upon review, DOE has determined that certain information should be withheld in the documents pursuant to Exemptions 5 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(4), (b)(5), and (b)(6).

Exemption 4 of the FOIA protects “trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). This exemption is intended to protect the interests of both the Government and submitters of information. Exemption 4 affords protection to submitters who provide trade secrets, or commercial or financial information to the Government by safeguarding them from the competitive disadvantages that could result from disclosure. The exemption covers two broad categories of information in Federal agency records: 1) trade secrets, and 2) information that is (a) commercial or financial and (b) obtained from a person, and (c) privileged or confidential.

The information withheld under Exemption 4 consists of proprietary information that is maintained in confidence by the submitter company, S&P Global, and that is not customarily released to the general public. The information consists of reporting and analysis that is only available to subscribing members via a subscription with the appropriate news reporting company. Specifically, S&P Global requires an individual to subscribe to their services via a payment plan, which enables the individual to view their news articles. For the reasons stated above, this information is being withheld under Exemption 4 of the FOIA.

Exemption 5 protects from mandatory disclosure “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters that would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.” 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5). Exemption 5 incorporates the deliberative process privilege which protects recommendations, advice, and opinions that are part of the process by which agency decisions and policies are formulated. The information withheld under Exemption 5 consists of inter/intra-agency pre-decisional, deliberative information.

Some of the information withheld under Exemption 5 has been deemed pre-decisional and deliberative in nature, including pre-decisional discussions between/among DOE staff. The information is both pre-decisional because it was developed before the agency adopted a final position, and deliberative, in that it reflects the opinions of individuals who were consulted as part of a decision-making process that will lead to the agency’s final policy decision about these matters. The DOE may consider these preliminary views as part of the process that will lead to the agency’s final decision about these matters. The information does not represent a final agency position, and its release would compromise the deliberative process by which the government makes its decisions. Therefore, portions of the documents are being withheld under Exemption 5 of the FOIA as pre-decisional material that is part of the agency’s deliberative process.

With respect to the discretionary disclosure of deliberative information, the quality of agency decisions would be adversely affected if frank, written discussion of policy matters were inhibited by the knowledge that the content of such discussion might be made public. For this reason, DOE has determined that discretionary disclosure of the deliberative material is not in the public interest because foreseeable harm would result from such disclosure.

Exemption 6 is generally referred to as the “personal privacy” exemption; it provides that the disclosure requirements of FOIA do not apply to “personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). In applying Exemption 6, the DOE considered: 1) whether a significant privacy interest would be invaded; 2) whether the release of the information would further the public interest by shedding light on the operations or activities of the Government; and 3) whether in balancing the privacy interests against the public interest, disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.

The information withheld under Exemption 6 consists of non-public emails and non-public phone numbers. This information qualifies as “similar files” because it is information in which an individual has a privacy interest. Moreover, releasing the information could subject the individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications. Since no public interest would be served by disclosing this information, and since there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by such disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes withholding the information. Therefore, we have determined that the public interest in the information’s release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential.

This satisfies the standard set forth at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A) that agencies shall withhold information under FOIA “only if (I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption...; or (II) disclosure is prohibited by law...”. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A) also provides that whenever full disclosure of a record is not possible, agencies shall “consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible...and (II) take reasonable steps necessary to segregate and release nonexempt information.” Therefore, we have determined that, in certain instances, a partial disclosure is proper.

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(c)(2), I am the individual responsible for the determination to withhold the information described above. The FOIA requires that “any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be provided to any person requesting such record after deletion of the portions which are exempt.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). As a result, a redacted version of the documents is being released to you in accordance with 10 C.F.R. §1004.7(c)(3).

This determination, as well as the adequacy of the search, may be appealed within 90 calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, L’Enfant Plaza, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-1615. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase “Freedom of Information Appeal” in the subject line (this is the preferred method by the Office of Hearings and Appeals). The appeal must contain all of the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either: 1) in the district where you reside; 2) where you have your principal place of business; 3) where DOE’s records are situated; or 4) in the District of Columbia.

You may contact DOE’s FOIA Public Liaison, Todd Burns at FOIA-Central@hq.doe.gov for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office

of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

The FOIA provides for the assessment of fees for the processing of requests. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(i); *see also* 10 C.F.R. § 1004.9(a). In our July 26, 2024, letter, you were advised that your request was placed in the “news media” category for fee purposes. Requesters in this category are charged fees for duplication only and are provided 100 pages at no cost. DOE’s processing costs did not exceed \$15.00, the minimum amount at which DOE assesses fees. Thus, no fees will be charged for processing your request.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request or this letter, you may contact Susan Plant at Susan.Plant@hq.doe.gov.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

Todd Burns
FOIA Officer
Office of the General Counsel

Enclosures
HQ-2024-01974-F

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Final response to John Greenwald:

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At this time, DOE has located two (2) documents responsive to your request.

- One (1) document is *being withheld in part, pursuant to Exemptions (b)(4), (b)(5), and (b)(6).*
- One (1) document is *being withheld in part, pursuant to Exemptions (b)(5) and (b)(6).*

This document is made available through the declassification efforts
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>

From: Jenkins, Alayna
Sent: Thu, 23 May 2024 02:06:33 +0000
To: (b)(6)(Secretary's email)
Cc: Hayashino, Cambria; Nygaard, Paige; Davis, Christopher; Bartol, Bridget; Dimitriou, Jasmine
Subject: RE: Additional Oversight Hearing Materials
Attachments: Odds and Ends for S1 HCOA hearing - 5-22 6 pm.pdf, Rio_Grande_LNG_in_the_United_States_signs_SPA_and_investment_deal_with_ADNOC.pdf, UFO and UPA Talking Points.pdf

Good evening Secretary,

I have attached an additional hearing material document. This document includes a quick summary of the off-take contract that was just announced for the Rio Grande LNG project.

The CI team has also provided a potential talking point below:

(b) (5)

Best,

Alayna

From: Jenkins, Alayna
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:02 PM
To: (b)(6)(Secretary's email)
Cc: Hayashino, Cambria <cambria.hayashino@hq.doe.gov>; Nygaard, Paige <Paige.Nygaard@hq.doe.gov>; Davis, Christopher <christopher.davis@hq.doe.gov>; Bartol, Bridget <bridget.bartol@hq.doe.gov>; Dimitriou, Jasmine <jasmine.dimitriou@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Additional Oversight Hearing Materials

Good evening Secretary,

Here is additional information for your hearing tomorrow. This email contains the odds and ends doc from today's prep session as well as UFO and UPA talking points.

Best,

Alayna

Alayna Jenkins

Special Assistant for the Briefing Book
Department of Energy
alayna.jenkins@hq.doe.gov (b) (6)

Odds and Ends for S1 HCOA hearing – 5/22 6:00 pm

On the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve

- The FY2024 budget agreement, signed into law in March, requires that:
 - “the Secretary of Energy shall draw down and sell one million barrels of refined petroleum product from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2024.”
- It also directs DOE to “carry out the closure” of the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve and prohibits DOE from establishing “any new regional petroleum product reserve unless funding of the proposed regional petroleum product reserve is explicitly requested in advance in an annual budget.”
- Accordingly, on Tuesday, May 20, DOE’s Office of Petroleum Reserves announced the solicitation for the sale and liquidation of 1 million barrels (42 million gallons) of gasoline in the NGSR.
 - For context, the average U.S gasoline consumption averages about 376 million gallons per day.
- On Thursday, after the sale was covered by the New York Post, **Rep. Andy BIGGS (R-AZ)** and other Members of the House – including Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) tweeted their opposition to the sale and suggested it was a political move, even though it was required by law.
 - ALL Republican Members of the House Oversight Committee voted FOR this provision on October 26, 2023, when they cast their vote for H.R. 4394, the FY2024 Energy & Water appropriations bill.¹

(b) (5)

¹ [Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives - Vote Details](#) and [BILLS-118hr4394pcs.pdf \(congress.gov\)](#)

Rio Grande LNG in the United States signs SPA and investment deal with ADNOC



21 May 2024 - LNG | Market Alert

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

Rep. Burchett (and maybe Rep. Luna) asks about unidentified anomalous phenomena, aka UAPs or UFOs

- *Note that the UAP/UFOs Caucus, of which Rep. Burchett is a Member, is bipartisan.*
- *The House Oversight Committee held a hearing on UFOs/UAPs in July 2023, at which three retired military veterans testified.*
- *Following the hearing, DOD issued a statement saying the Pentagon's inquiries had not turned up "any verifiable information to substantiate claims that any programs regarding the possession or reverse-engineering of extraterrestrial materials have existed in the past or exist currently."*

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Sent: Thu, 23 May 2024 01:01:56 +0000
To: (b)(6) (Secretary's email)
Cc: Hayashino, Cambria; Nygaard, Paige; Davis, Christopher; Bartol, Bridget; Dimitriou, Jasmine
Subject: Additional Oversight Hearing Materials
Attachments: UFO and UPA Talking Points.pdf, Odds and Ends for S1 HCOA hearing - 5-22 6 pm.pdf

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Alayna

Alayna Jenkins

Special Assistant for the Briefing Book

Department of Energy

alayna.jenkins@hq.doe.gov (b) (6)

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