



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR  
Washington, D.C. 20240



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
FOIA Appeal No. 2008-036

JAN 4 2008

Jeff Ruch  
Public Employees for Environmental  
Responsibility (PEER)  
2000 P Street, NW, Suite 240  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Ruch:

This concerns the November 9, 2007, Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") appeal ("appeal") (No. 2008-036) that you filed with the Department of the Interior ("Department"). Your appeal alleges that the Office of Inspector General ("OIG") has not responded to the August 27, 2007, FOIA request that you submitted to it within the time frame set in the FOIA. Your FOIA request seeks information pertaining to the OIG's "February 2007 report entitled 'Assessment of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement.'"

The FOIA requires an agency to make a determination on an appeal within 20 workdays after the receipt of such appeal. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(ii). The Department has not responded to your appeal within this time limit because of an extraordinarily large number of appeals pending in the Department ahead of yours, the need to fully review the issues you presented in your appeal, and other unforeseen circumstances. Since the Department has not made a determination on your appeal within the time limits set in the FOIA, you may seek judicial review under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B). However, we hope that you will delay filing a lawsuit so that the Department can thoroughly review the issues in your appeal and make a determination. We appreciate your patience to this point and the Department will make every effort to reach a decision on your appeal as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding your appeal, please call me at (202) 208-5339.

Sincerely,

LaRima L. Lane  
Senior FOIA Appeals Specialist  
Department of the Interior