

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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December 21, 2007

Mr. Rick Steiner, Professor  
University of Alaska - Anchorage  
2221 E. Northern Lights, #118  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Re: Request for Clarification of Public Records Requests.

Mr. Steiner:

Recently, on December 6, 2007, you made two requests for public records held by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), one regarding polar bears and the other regarding predator control. You requested a waiver of fees and privilege claims in regard to both of these requests. Because neither a fee waiver nor a privilege waiver will be granted, and because both requests are extremely broad, we are requesting clarification prior to commencement of a response.

ADF&G has an established fee schedule applicable to public records requests, SOP III-400-8, a copy of which is enclosed. ADF&G does not waive fees except where the costs of searching for the requested records is below \$25 and copying costs are below \$5.

Both of your requests would require an IT professional to work with each employee to search individual employee email accounts and files, involving an estimated 4-8 hours of work for each employee just for the electronic records searches (varying based on the number of files to be searched and the number of relevant files found). We can reduce costs by conducting both searches at the same time, but estimated costs--using the lower range estimate since many employees will have few relevant files--is still \$468,784 {(4hrs)(1412 employees)}(\$39 ave hourly personnel cost + 44 ave. IT hourly cost)} for the electronic searches.

In addition it is estimated that several DVDs will be required to burn copies of electronic files for each request at a cost of \$150 per request (3 x \$50). Based on inquiries to key employees our initial estimate is that the polar bear request will result in approximately 3-4 banker boxes of documents at a cost of \$1,950 and that the predator control request will result in 8-13 banker boxes of documents at a cost of \$6,250.

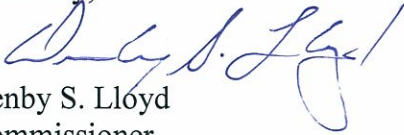
Rick, I imagine that this type of search, let alone this level of expense, was not your intent. Therefore, if you would like to narrow the scope of this search, please submit a revised request. Doug Vincent-Lang (907-267-2339), of my staff will be happy to work with you to help narrow the requested search to key employees if you desire; however even when narrowed to key

employees the request may still be quite extensive, we estimate that there are at least 16 employees likely to have significant files relating to polar bear issues and at least 26 employees likely to have significant files relating to predator control issues.

With regards to the predator control request, before we commence that search we will also need a signed statement indicating that you are not party to and do not represent a party in litigation with the State.

Please note that the State of Alaska is in the process of obtaining new software that will allow more efficient centralized electronic searches of email files. We anticipate that software to be in place within six months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Denby S. Lloyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Denby S. Lloyd  
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Doug Vincent-Lang, Sport Fish Division, ADF&G