



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 14 2014

Mr. Jeff Ruch
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)
2000 P Street, NW
Suite 240
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request (EPA-HQ-2014-007707)

Dear Mr. Ruch,

Our office was assigned responsibility for your FOIA, EPA-HQ-2014-007707, requesting records documenting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implementation of whistleblower bounty payments taken under the authority of Section 7413(t) of the Clean Air Act [Pub.L.IOI-549] and under 40 C.F.R. 303.10 implementing Section 9609(d) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) [Pub.L.99--499]. Specifically, you have requested records containing the following:

1. The number of instances upon which EPA has issued awards under Section 7413(t) by year and amount, for every year from 1991 to the present;
2. Any guidance, directive or other records indicating the manner in which EPA has exercised and does exercise its authority under Section 7413(t), including rules or criteria regarding eligibility for awards;
3. The number of instances upon which EPA has issued awards under 40 C.F.R. 303.10 by year and amount, for every year from 1990 to the present; and
4. Any guidance, directive or other records indicating the manner in which EPA has exercised and does exercise its authority under 40 C.F.R. 303.10, including rules or criteria regarding eligibility for awards.

We have researched your FOIA request and are releasing all responsive records in our possession to your FOIA, EPA-HQ-2014-007707. Nearly all the records you requested were

destroyed in 2012 because the retention schedule for those records had been met (10 years retention time).

If you are not satisfied with my action on this request, you may appeal this response to the National Freedom of Information Officer, U.S. EPA, FOIA and Privacy Branch (2822T), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460 (U.S. Postal Service only), or by fax: (202) 566-2147, or by email: hq.foia@epa.gov. Only items mailed through the U.S. Postal Service may be delivered to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. If you are submitting your appeal via hand delivery, courier service, or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 6416J, Washington, DC 20004.

Your appeal must be in writing and submitted no later than 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 30 calendar day limit. The appeal letter should clearly identify the determination being appealed, including the assigned FOIA request number (RIN) shown above. For the quickest possible handling, both the appeal letter and its envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

This information is being made available to you under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended, and Agency regulation, 40 CFR Part 2, as amended. Section 2.120 of the above referenced regulation authorizes the assessment of a fee to cover the search and reproduction cost incurred by the Environmental Protection Agency in complying with information requests where the total cost to the Agency exceeds \$25.00. Since the fee for this FOIA, EPA-HQ-2014-007707, was less than \$25.00, no fee is being assessed to this FOIA.

If you have any questions please contact me, Sounjay K. Gairola, at (202) 564-4003.

Sincerely,



Sounjay K. Gairola
AED FOIA Coordinator

cc: HQ FOIA Office, US EPA
Maya Lee Newman, US EPA