§ 0.465 Request for copies of materials which are available, or made available, for public inspection.

(a) The Commission awards a contract to a commercial duplication firm to make copies of Commission records and offer them for sale to the public. In addition to the charge for copying, the contractor may charge a search fee for extracting the requested documents from the Commission’s files.

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (a): The name, address, telephone number, and schedule of fees for the current duplication contractor are published at the time of contract award of renewal in a Public Notice and periodically thereafter. Questions regarding this information should be directed to the Reference Information Center of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau.

(b) The Commission awards a contract to a commercial firm to transcribe Commission proceedings in which a verbatim record is kept and to offer copies of the transcript for sale to the public. Except as authorized by the
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Commission, the firm is required to retain the capacity to furnish copies of the transcript for a period of 5 years, and may retain that capacity for a longer period, even though another firm is currently transcribing Commission proceedings. Requests for copies of the transcript of the current proceedings should be directed to the current contractor. Requests for transcripts of older proceedings will be forwarded by the Commission to the firm which made the transcript in question; and the names of contracting firms for past years will be furnished upon request.

Note to Paragraph (b): The name, address, telephone number, and schedule of fees for the current transcription contractor are maintained by the Office of the Secretary in the Managing Director’s Office.

(c)(1) Contractual arrangements which have been entered into with commercial firms, as described in this section, do not in any way limit the right of the public to inspect Commission records or to extract therefrom whatever information may be desired. Coin-operated and debit card copy machines are available for use by the public.

(2) The Commission has reserved the right to make copies of its records for its own use or for the use of other agencies of the U.S. Government. When it serves the regulatory or financial interests of the U.S. Government, the Commission will make and furnish copies of its records free of charge. In other circumstances, however, if it should be necessary for the Commission to make and furnish copies of its records for the use of others, the fee for this service shall be 17 cents per page. For copies prepared with other media, such as computer tapes, microfiche or videotape, the charge will be the actual direct cost including operator time. Requests for copying should be accompanied by a statement specifying the maximum copying fee the person making the request is prepared to pay. If the Commission estimates that copying charges are likely to exceed $25 or the amount which the requester has indicated that he or she is prepared to pay, then it shall notify the requester of the estimated amount of fees. Such a notice shall offer the requester the opportunity to confer with Commission personnel with the object of revising or clarifying the request.

Note: The criterion considered in acting on a waiver request is whether “waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest because furnishing the information can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public.” 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4)(A). The following factors are relevant in applying that criterion: the number of persons to be benefited, the significance of the benefit, the private interest of the requester which the release may further, the usefulness of the materials to be released to the general public and the likelihood that a tangible public benefit will be realized. (See Attorney General’s 1974 FOIA Amendments Memorandum, at 15.)

(3) Requests for copies by representatives of foreign governments or persons residing in foreign countries shall be submitted to the General Counsel and will be reviewed by the General Counsel under criteria established by the Department of Commerce for controlling the export of technical data.

(4) Certified Documents. Copies of documents which are available or made available, for inspection under §§ 0.451 through 0.465, will be prepared and certified, under seal, by the Secretary, or for documents located in the Commission’s Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Office by his deputy. Requests shall be in writing, specifying the exact documents, the number of copies desired, and the date on which they will be required. The request shall allow a reasonable time for the preparation and certification of copies. The fee for preparing copies shall be the same as that charged by the Commission as described in § 0.465(c)(2). The fee for certification shall be $10 for each document.

(d)(1) Computer maintained data bases produced by the Commission may be obtained from the FCC’s internet web site at www.fcc.gov.

Note: The Commission awards a contract to provide the public with direct electronic access to a portion of the non-Government Master Frequency File data base released for access and residing on the contractor’s computer system. The name, address, telephone number, and schedule of fees for the current contractor are published annually at the time of contract award or renewal in a Public notice. This information may be obtained from the Office of Congressional and Public
§ 0.466 Definitions.

(a) For the purpose of §§0.467 and 0.468, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) The term direct costs means those expenditures which the Commission actually incurs in searching for and duplicating (and in case of commercial requesters, reviewing) documents to respond to a FOIA request. Direct costs include the salary of the employee performing the work (the basic rate of pay for the employee plus 16 percent of that rate to cover benefits), and the cost of operating duplicating machinery. Not included in direct costs are overhead expenses, such as costs of space, and heating or lighting the facility in which the records are stored.

(2) The term search includes all time spent looking for material that is responsive to a request, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material contained within documents. Such activity should be distinguished, however, from “review” of material in order to determine whether the material is exempt from disclosure (see paragraph (a)(3) of this section).

(3) The term review refers to the process of examining documents located in response to a commercial use request (see paragraph (a)(4) of this section) to determine whether any portion of a document located is exempt from disclosure. It also includes processing any documents for disclosure, e.g., performing such functions that are necessary to excise them or otherwise prepare them for release. Review does not include time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of FOIA exemptions.

(4) The term commercial use request refers to a request from or on behalf of one who seeks information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial interests of the requester. In determining whether a requester properly falls within this category, the Commission shall determine the use to which a requester will put the documents requested. Where the Commission has reasonable cause to question the use to which a requester will put the documents sought, or where that use is not clear from the request itself, the Commission shall seek additional clarification before assigning the request to a specific category.

(5) The term educational institution refers to a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution or graduate higher education, an institution of professional education and an institution of vocational education, which operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(6) The term non-commercial scientific institution refers to an institution that is not operated on a commercial basis as that term is referenced in paragraph...