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552(b). These exemptions will be interpreted in accordance with the applicable law at the time a request for production or disclosure is considered.


§ 1015.16 Exemptions (5 U.S.C. 552(b)).

(a) Records specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order.

(b) Records related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Commission.

(c) Records specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of Title 5, United States Code), provided that such statute either requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld.

(d) Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

(e) Interagency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency.

(f) Personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(g) Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information:

1. Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings,

2. Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication,

3. Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

4. Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source,

5. Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or

6. Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.

(h) Records contained in or related to examinations, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions.

(i) Records of geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.


§ 1015.17 Internal Commission procedure for withholding exempt records.

Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section describe the internal Commission procedure to be followed for requesting that a record exempt from disclosure under the inter-agency memorandum exemption, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(5), or the investigatory file exemption, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7), not be disclosed.

(a) If a bureau or office director believes that it is against the public interest to disclose a Commission record prepared by his/her bureau or office, he/she may request in writing that the Secretary withhold the document. The request must specify why the release would be against the public interest.

1. If the Secretary agrees to withhold the document, the requester shall be notified in writing of the denial and of his/her right to appeal in accordance with §1015.6(b).

2. If the Secretary decides to release the document, the bureau or office director shall be notified and given two working days within which to appeal to