

mailed to P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611, and should refer to *United States v. Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas, Formosa Hydrocarbons Company, Inc., and Formosa Plastics Corporation, Louisiana*, D.J. Ref. 90-5-2-1-08995.

The Consent Decree may be examined at the Office of the United States Attorney, Southern District of Texas, 919 Milam Street, Houston, Texas, and at U.S. EPA Region 6, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX. During the public comment period, the Consent Decree may also be examined on the following Department of Justice Web site, http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html. A copy of the Consent Decree may also be obtained by mail from the Consent Decree Library, P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611 or by faxing or e-mailing a request to Tonia Fleetwood (tonia.fleetwood@usdoj.gov), fax no. (202) 514-0097, phone confirmation number (202) 514-1547. In requesting a copy from the Consent Decree Library, please enclose a check in the amount of \$18.50 (25 cents per page reproduction costs of Consent Decree and Appendices) payable to the U.S. Treasury or, if by e-mail or fax, forward a check in the amount to the Consent Decree Library at the stated address.

Maureen M. Katz,

Assistant Section Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. E9-24240 Filed 10-7-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

Notice is hereby given that on September 25, 2009, a proposed de

minimis party consent decree with the City of De Pere ("Consent Decree") in *United States, et al. v. George A. Whiting Paper Co., et al.*, Civil Action No. 1:09-cv-00692 was lodged with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

In this action the United States and the State of Wisconsin sought to recover unreimbursed costs incurred for response activities undertaken in response to the release and threatened release of hazardous substances from a facility at and near the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Site in northeastern Wisconsin and damages for injury to, loss of, or destruction of natural resources in order to compensate for and restore natural resources injured by the release of hazardous substances into the environment at the Site.

The Consent Decree reflects the conclusion of the United States and the State of Wisconsin that the City of De Pere qualifies for treatment as a CERCLA Section 122(g) *de minimis* party. The proposed Consent Decree requires the City of De Pere to pay of \$210,000.

The Department of Justice will receive for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication comments relating to the Consent Decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, and either emailed to pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov or mailed to P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611, and should refer to *United States, et al. v. George A. Whiting Paper Co., et al.*, D.J. Ref. 90-11-2-1045/7.

The Consent Decree may be examined at the Office of the United States Attorney, Eastern District of Wisconsin, 530 Federal Building, 517 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202, and at U.S. EPA Region Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604. During the public comment period, the Consent Decree may also be

examined on the following Department of Justice Web site, http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html. A copy of the Consent Decree may also be obtained by mail from the Consent Decree Library, P.O. Box 7611, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20044-7611 or by faxing or e-mailing a request to Tonia Fleetwood (tonia.fleetwood@usdoj.gov), fax no. (202) 514-0097, phone confirmation number (202) 514-1547. In requesting a copy from the Consent Decree Library, please enclose a check in the amount of \$7.75 (25 cents per page reproduction cost) payable to the U.S. Treasury or, if by e-mail or fax, forward a check in that amount to the Consent Decree Library at the stated address.

Maureen Katz,

Assistant Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. E9-24241 Filed 10-7-09; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Information Policy; Attorney General Memorandum for Executive Departments and Agencies Concerning the Freedom of Information Act

Correction

In notice document E9-23375 beginning on page 49892 in the issue of Tuesday, September 29, 2009, make the following correction:

On page 49893, in the first column, immediately following the signature block, three photo pages did not appear. The photo pages are printed below in their entirety.

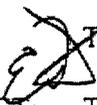


Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM:  THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT: The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, reflects our nation's fundamental commitment to open government. This memorandum is meant to underscore that commitment and to ensure that it is realized in practice.

A Presumption of Openness

As President Obama instructed in his January 21 FOIA Memorandum, "The Freedom of Information Act should be administered with a clear presumption: In the face of doubt, openness prevails." This presumption has two important implications.

First, an agency should not withhold information simply because it may do so legally. I strongly encourage agencies to make discretionary disclosures of information. An agency should not withhold records merely because it can demonstrate, as a technical matter, that the records fall within the scope of a FOIA exemption.

Second, whenever an agency determines that it cannot make full disclosure of a requested record, it must consider whether it can make partial disclosure. Agencies should always be mindful that the FOIA requires them to take reasonable steps to segregate and release nonexempt information. Even if some parts of a record must be withheld, other parts either may not be covered by a statutory exemption, or may be covered only in a technical sense unrelated to the actual impact of disclosure.

At the same time, the disclosure obligation under the FOIA is not absolute. The Act provides exemptions to protect, for example, national security, personal privacy, privileged records, and law enforcement interests. But as the President stated in his memorandum, "The Government should not keep information confidential merely because public officials might be embarrassed by disclosure, because errors and failures might be revealed, or because of speculative or abstract fears."

Pursuant to the President's directive that I issue new FOIA guidelines, I hereby rescind the Attorney General's FOIA Memorandum of October 12, 2001, which stated that the Department of Justice would defend decisions to withhold records "unless they lack a sound

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Subject: The Freedom of Information Act

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legal basis or present an unwarranted risk of adverse impact on the ability of other agencies to protect other important records.”

Instead, the Department of Justice will defend a denial of a FOIA request only if (1) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the statutory exemptions, or (2) disclosure is prohibited by law. With regard to litigation pending on the date of the issuance of this memorandum, this guidance should be taken into account and applied if practicable when, in the judgment of the Department of Justice lawyers handling the matter and the relevant agency defendants, there is a substantial likelihood that application of the guidance would result in a material disclosure of additional information.

FOIA Is Everyone's Responsibility

Application of the proper disclosure standard is only one part of ensuring transparency. Open government requires not just a presumption of disclosure but also an effective system for responding to FOIA requests. Each agency must be fully accountable for its administration of the FOIA.

I would like to emphasize that responsibility for effective FOIA administration belongs to all of us—it is not merely a task assigned to an agency's FOIA staff. We all must do our part to ensure open government. In recent reports to the Attorney General, agencies have noted that competing agency priorities and insufficient technological support have hindered their ability to implement fully the FOIA Improvement Plans that they prepared pursuant to Executive Order 13392 of December 14, 2005. To improve FOIA performance, agencies must address the key roles played by a broad spectrum of agency personnel who work with agency FOIA professionals in responding to requests.

Improving FOIA performance requires the active participation of agency Chief FOIA Officers. Each agency is required by law to designate a senior official at the Assistant Secretary level or its equivalent who has direct responsibility for ensuring that the agency efficiently and appropriately complies with the FOIA. That official must recommend adjustments to agency practices, personnel, and funding as may be necessary.

Equally important, of course, are the FOIA professionals in the agency who directly interact with FOIA requesters and are responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Act. I ask that you transmit this memorandum to all such personnel. Those professionals deserve the full support of the agency's Chief FOIA Officer to ensure that they have the tools they need to respond promptly and efficiently to FOIA requests. FOIA professionals should be mindful of their obligation to work “in a spirit of cooperation” with FOIA requesters, as President Obama has directed. Unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles have no place in the “new era of open Government” that the President has proclaimed.

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Working Proactively and Promptly

Open government requires agencies to work proactively and respond to requests promptly. The President's memorandum instructs agencies to "use modern technology to inform citizens what is known and done by their Government." Accordingly, agencies should readily and systematically post information online in advance of any public request. Providing more information online reduces the need for individualized requests and may help reduce existing backlogs. When information not previously disclosed is requested, agencies should make it a priority to respond in a timely manner. Timely disclosure of information is an essential component of transparency. Long delays should not be viewed as an inevitable and insurmountable consequence of high demand.

In that regard, I would like to remind you of a new requirement that went into effect on December 31, 2008, pursuant to Section 7 of the OPEN Government Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-175. For all requests filed on or after that date, agencies must assign an individualized tracking number to requests that will take longer than ten days to process, and provide that tracking number to the requester. In addition, agencies must establish a telephone line or Internet service that requesters can use to inquire about the status of their requests using the request's assigned tracking number, including the date on which the agency received the request and an estimated date on which the agency will complete action on the request. Further information on these requirements is available on the Department of Justice's website at www.usdoj.gov/oip/foiapost/2008foiapost30.htm.

Agency Chief FOIA Officers should review all aspects of their agencies' FOIA administration, with particular focus on the concerns highlighted in this memorandum, and report to the Department of Justice each year on the steps that have been taken to improve FOIA operations and facilitate information disclosure at their agencies. The Department of Justice's Office of Information Policy (OIP) will offer specific guidance on the content and timing of such reports.

I encourage agencies to take advantage of Department of Justice FOIA resources. OIP will provide training and additional guidance on implementing these guidelines. In addition, agencies should feel free to consult with OIP when making difficult FOIA decisions. With regard to specific FOIA litigation, agencies should consult with the relevant Civil Division, Tax Division, or U.S. Attorney's Office lawyer assigned to the case.

This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers, employees, agents, or any other person.

[FR Doc. Z9-23375 Filed 10-7-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1301-00-D

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation Training Division

[OMB Number 1110-NEW]

FBI National Academy Level I Evaluation Proposed Collection, Comments Requested

ACTION: 60-Day Notice of Information Collection Under Review: Approval of a New Collection.

*FBI National Academy Level 1
Evaluation: Student Course
Questionnaire.*

*FBI National Academy: General
Remarks Questionnaire.*

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Training Division's Office of Technology, Research, and Curriculum Development (OTRCD) will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for 60 days until December 7, 2009. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

If you have comments (especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time), suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions or additional information, please contact *Candace Matthews, Evaluation Program Manager, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Training Division, Curriculum Development and Evaluation Unit, FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia 22135 or facsimile at (703) 632-3111.*

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency/component, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's/component's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of the

information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of this information:

1. *Type of Information Collection:*
Approval of a New Collection.

2. *Title of the Forms:*

FBI National Academy Level 1

*Evaluation: Student Course
Questionnaire.*

*FBI National Academy: General
Remarks Questionnaire.*

3. *Agency Form Number, if any, and the applicable component of the department sponsoring the collection:*

Form Number: 1110-XXXX.

Sponsor: Training Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Justice (DOJ).

4. *Affected Public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:*

Primary: FBI National Academy students that represent State and local police and sheriffs' departments, military police organizations, and Federal law enforcement agencies from the United States and over 150 foreign nations.

Brief Abstract: This collection is requested by FBI National Academy. These surveys have been developed to measure the effectiveness of services that the FBI National Academy provides. We will utilize the students' comments to improve upon the current curriculum.

5. *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:*

Approximately 1,020 FBI National Academy students per year will respond to two types of questionnaires. (1) FBI National Academy Level 1 Evaluation: Student Course Questionnaire and (2) FBI National Academy: General Remarks Questionnaire. It is predicted that we will receive a 75% respond rate for both surveys. Each student will respond to approximately six to seven Student Course Questionnaires—one for each class they have completed. The average time for reading the directions to each questionnaire is estimated to be 2 minutes; the time to complete each questionnaire is estimated to be approximately 20 minutes. Thus the total time to complete the Student Course Questionnaire is 22 minutes.

For the FBI National Academy: General Remarks Questionnaire, students will respond to one questionnaire. The average time for reading the directions to this questionnaire is estimated to be 2 minutes; the time to complete each questionnaire is estimated to be approximately 10 minutes. Thus the total time to complete the General Remarks Questionnaire is 12 minutes. The total hour burden for both surveys is 2,822 hours.

6. *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:*

The average hour burden for completing all the surveys combined is 2,822 hours.

If additional information is required, contact: Ms. Lynn Bryant, Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Policy and Planning Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 1600, Patrick Henry Building, 601 D Street, NW., Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: October 5, 2009.

Lynn Bryant,

Department Clearance Officer, PRA, United States Department of Justice.

[FR Doc. E9-24307 Filed 10-7-09; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2009-0142]

State of New Jersey: Discontinuance of Certain Commission Regulatory Authority Within the State; Notice of Agreement Between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State of New Jersey

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Agreement between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State of New Jersey.

SUMMARY: This notice is announcing that on September 2, 2009, Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission), and on September 23, 2009, Governor Jon S. Corzine, of the State of New Jersey, signed an Agreement as authorized by Section 274b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act). The Agreement provides for the Commission to discontinue its regulatory authority and for New Jersey to assume regulatory authority over the possession and use of byproduct material as defined in