

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
Freedom of Information Act Annual Report
October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012

I. BASIC INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT

1. Name, title, address, and telephone number of person(s) to be contacted with questions about the report.

Denise Smith
FOIA Officer
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 W. Summit Hill Drive (WT 7D)
Knoxville, TN 37902-1401
(865) 632-6945

2. Electronic address for report on the TVA website.

http://www.tva.gov/foia/foia_annual12.pdf

3. How to obtain a copy of the report in paper form.

Contact Denise Smith at the above address and/or telephone number.

II. MAKING A FOIA REQUEST

For basic information about how to make a FOIA request, visit our website at <http://www.tva.gov/foia>.

1. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all individual agency components and offices that receive FOIA requests.

All FOIA requests to TVA should be directed to Ms. Smith at the address given above.

III. ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS

1. Agency-specific acronyms or other terms.

TVA is the Tennessee Valley Authority

2. Definitions of terms used in this Report:

- a. **Administrative Appeal** - a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a FOIA determination made by the agency at the initial request level.
- b. **Average Number** - the number obtained by dividing the sum of a group of numbers by the quantity of numbers in the group. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the average number is 8.
- c. **Backlog** - the number of requests or administrative appeals that are pending at an agency at the end of the fiscal year that are beyond the statutory time period for a response.
- d. **Component** - for agencies that process requests on a decentralized basis, a “component” is an entity, also sometimes referred to as an Office, Division, Bureau, Center, or Directorate, within the agency that processes FOIA requests. The FOIA now requires that agencies include in their Annual FOIA Report data for both the agency overall and for each principal component of the agency.
- e. **Consultation** - the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another agency for its review because that other agency has an interest in the document. Once the agency in receipt of the consultation finishes its review of the record, it responds back to the agency that forwarded it. That agency, in turn, will then respond to the FOIA requester.
- f. **Exemption 3 Statute** - a federal statute that exempts information from disclosure and which the agency relies on to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of the FOIA.
- g. **FOIA Request** - a FOIA request is generally a request to a federal agency for access to records concerning another person (i.e., a “third-party” request), or concerning an organization, or a particular topic of interest. FOIA requests also include requests made by requesters seeking records concerning themselves (i.e., “first-party” requests) when those requesters are not subject to the Privacy Act, such as non-U.S. citizens.

Moreover, because all first-party requesters should be afforded the benefit of both the access provisions of the FOIA as well as those of the Privacy Act, FOIA requests also include any first-party requests where an agency determines that it must search beyond its Privacy Act “systems of records” or where a Privacy Act exemption applies, and the agency looks to FOIA to afford the greatest possible access. All requests which require the agency to utilize the FOIA in responding to the requester are included in this Report.

Additionally, a FOIA request includes records referred to the agency for processing and direct response to the requester. It does not, however, include records for which the agency has received a consultation from another agency. (Consultations are reported separately in Section XII of this Report.)

- h. **Full Grant** - an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.
- i. **Full Denial** - an agency decision not to release any records in response to a FOIA request because the records are exempt in their entireties under one or more of the FOIA exemptions, or because of a procedural reason, such as when no records could be located.
- j. **Median Number** - the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
- k. **Multi-Track Processing** - a system in which simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more voluminous and complex requests are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are generally processed on a first in/first out basis.
 - i. **Expedited Processing** - an agency will process a FOIA request on an expedited basis when a requester satisfies the requirements for expedited processing as set forth in the statute and in agency regulations.
 - ii. **Simple Request** - a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (non-expedited) track based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.
 - iii. **Complex Request** - a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the high volume and/or complexity of the records requested.

- l. **Partial Grant/Partial Denial** - in response to a FOIA request, an agency decision to disclose portions of the records and to withhold other portions that are exempt under the FOIA, or to otherwise deny a portion of the request for a procedural reason.
 - m. **Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal** - a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.
 - n. **Perfected Request** - a request for records which reasonably describes such records and is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any) and procedures to be followed.
 - o. **Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal** - a request or administrative appeal on which an agency has taken final action in all respects.
 - p. **Range in Number of Days** - the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.
 - q. **Time Limits** - the time period in the statute for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily twenty working days from receipt of a perfected FOIA request).
3. Description of the nine FOIA exemptions:
- a. **Exemption 1:** classified national defense and foreign relations information
 - b. **Exemption 2:** internal agency rules and practices
 - c. **Exemption 3:** information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law
 - d. **Exemption 4:** trade secrets and other confidential business information
 - e. **Exemption 5:** inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges
 - f. **Exemption 6:** information involving matters of personal privacy
 - g. **Exemption 7:** records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of those records (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B)

would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual

- h. **Exemption 8:** information relating to the supervision of financial institutions
- i. **Exemption 9:** geological information on wells

IV. Exemption 3 Statutes

A. Exemption 3 Statutes Relied upon to Withhold Information

Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency
41 U.S.C. 4702(b)	Contractor proposals	Sinkfield v. HUD, No. 10- 885, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 35233, at *13-15 (S.D. Ohio Mar. 15, 2012); Hornbostel v. U.S. Dep't of the Interior, 305 F. Supp. 2d 21, 30 (D.D.C. 2003), summary affirmance granted, No. 03-5257, 2004 WL 1900562 (D.C. Cir. Aug. 25, 2004)	6

V. FOIA REQUESTS

A. Received, Processed and Pending FOIA Requests

	Number of Requests Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
AGENCY OVERALL	15	188	178	25

B. (1) Disposition of FOIA Requests - All Processed Requests

	Number of Full Grants	Number of Partial Grants/Partial Denials	Number of Full Denials Based on Exemptions	Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									
				No Records	All Records Referred to Another Component or Agency	Request Withdrawn	Fee-Related Reasons	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper FOIA Request for Other Reason	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request	Other	TOTAL
AGENCY OVERALL	51	80	8	24	0	8	5	0	0	2	0	0	178

(2) Disposition of FOIA Requests - "Other" Reasons

	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denials from Chart B (1)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
AGENCY OVERALL	None	0	0

(3) Disposition of FOIA Requests - Number of Times Exemptions Applied

	Ex 1	Ex 2	Ex 3	Ex 4	Ex 5	Ex 6	Ex 7(a)	Ex 7(b)	Ex 7(c)	Ex 7(d)	Ex 7(e)	Ex 7(f)	Ex 8	Ex 9
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	6	10	20	66	0	0	4	1	1	1	0	0

VI. Administrative Appeals of Initial Determinations of FOIA Requests

A. Received, Processed and Pending Administrative Appeals

Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
0	6	6	0

B. Disposition of Administrative Appeals - All Processed Appeals

Number Affirmed on Appeal	Number Partially Affirmed & Partially Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number Completely Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number of Appeals Closed for Other Reasons	TOTAL
6	0	0	0	6

C. (1) Reasons for Denial on Appeal - Number of Times Exemptions Applied

Ex 1	Ex 2	Ex 3	Ex 4	Ex 5	Ex 6	Ex 7(a)	Ex 7(b)	Ex 7(c)	Ex 7(d)	Ex 7(e)	Ex 7(f)	Ex 8	Ex 9
0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0

(2) Reasons for Denial on Appeal - Reasons Other than Exemptions

	No Records	Records Referred at Initial Request Level	Request Withdrawn	Fee-Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper Request for Other Reasons	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request	Request in Litigation	Appeal based solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	Other (explain below)
AGENCY OVERALL	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(3) Reasons for Denial on Appeal - "Other" Reasons

	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C (2)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
AGENCY OVERALL	None	0	0

Complex Requests														
	1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81- 100 Days	101- 120 Days	121- 140 Days	141- 160 Days	161- 180 Days	181- 200 Days	201- 300 Days	301- 400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
AGENCY OVERALL	0	26	10	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	39

Expedited Processing														
	1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81- 100 Days	101- 120 Days	121- 140 Days	141- 160 Days	161- 180 Days	181- 200 Days	201- 300 Days	301- 400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

D. Pending Requests – All Pending Perfected Requests

	SIMPLE			COMPLEX			EXPEDITED PROCESSING		
	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days
AGENCY OVERALL	12	9	9	13	104	125	0	0	0

E. Pending Requests – Ten Oldest Pending Perfected Requests

	10 th Oldest Request	9 th	8 th	7 th	6 th	5 th	4 th	3 rd	2 nd	Oldest Request
Date of Receipt	5-16-12	5-11-12	5-3-12	5-3-12	5-3-12	5-3-12	5-3-12	3-26-12	8-9-11	4-4-11
Number of Days Pending	95	98	104	104	104	104	104	132	288	377

VIII. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING AND REQUESTS FOR FEE WAIVER

A. Requests for Expedited Processing

	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

B. Request for Fee Waiver

	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
AGENCY OVERALL	4	1	9	18

IX. FOIA PERSONNEL AND COSTS

	Number of "Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Number of "Equivalent Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Total Number of "Full-Time FOIA Staff"	Processing Costs	Litigation-Related Costs	Total Costs
AGENCY OVERALL	1	1	2	278,113	0	\$278,113

X. FEES COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS

- The following chart shows the total dollar amount of fees collected from FOIA requesters for processing their requests. Also shown is the percentage of total processing costs that those fees represent. Included are all fees received from a FOIA requester for search, review, and document duplication and any other direct costs permitted by agency regulations.

	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
AGENCY OVERALL	\$3,554.05	1.28%

XI. FOIA REGULATIONS

- TVA's FOIA regulations may be found at the following link.

http://www.tva.com/foia/foia_regulations.htm

XII. BACKLOGS, CONSULTATION, AND COMPARISONS

A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals

	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year*	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year
AGENCY OVERALL	12	0

*These requests were properly placed in the multi-track processing system based on the volume and complexity of the information requested.

B. Consultations on FOIA Requests – Received, Processed, and Pending Consultations

	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were <u>Pending</u> at the <u>Start</u> of the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations <u>Received</u> from Other Agencies During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were <u>Processed</u> During the Fiscal Year	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies that Were <u>Pending</u> at the <u>End</u> of the Fiscal Year
AGENCY OVERALL	0	1	1	0

C. Consultations on FOIA Requests – Ten Oldest Consultations Received From Other Agencies and Pending

None

D. Comparison of Numbers of Requests from Previous and Current Annual Report – Requests Received, Processed, and Backlogged

	Number of Requests Received		Number of Requests Processed	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year’s Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year’s Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
AGENCY OVERALL	175	188	173	178

	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
AGENCY OVERALL	6	12

E. Comparison of Number of Administrative Appeals from Previous and Current Annual Report – Appeals Received, Processed, and Backlogged

	Number of Appeals Received		Number of Appeals Processed	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
AGENCY OVERALL	4	6	4	6

	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0