



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY  
MANAGEMENT, REGULATION, AND ENFORCEMENT  
Washington, DC 20240

November 18, 2010

Joe Stephens  
The Washington Post  
1150 15<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20071

REF: MMS-2010-00243

Dear Mr. Stephens,

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated June 2, 2010 and received in this office on June 3, 2010. In your request, you sought "correspondence since January 1, 2004, between the Minerals Management Service (now Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE)) and members of Congress and their staff members, and all correspondence between the Minerals Management Service (BOEMRE) and Congressional committees and their staff members."

We are writing you today to provide you with a partial response. Enclosed are approximately 1,553 pages of documents responsive to your request. Several pages have been partially redacted citing the following exemptions:

**Exemption 2 of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(2))**  
**Exemption 6 of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6))**

**Exemption 2:**

Exemption 2 protects from public disclosure records that are related to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency. It includes two distinct categories of records:

"Low 2" is dealing with internal matters of a relatively trivial nature for which there is no legitimate public interest or benefit; and is applicable when it would impose an administrative burden on the agency to process and release the requested records.

"High 2" is more substantive, the disclosure of which would allow circumvention of a statute or agency regulation. The premise under "high 2" is that disclosure would not benefit those attempting to violate the law and avoid detection.

We have determined that fixed conference call codes belong to the category of information likely to result in harmful circumvention under "high 2."

**Exemption 6:**