2010-00445
Due: 7/1

Marie H. Marks

From: Jim McElhatton [jmcelhatton@washingtontimes.com]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2010 4:37 PM
To: FOIA@noaa.gov
Subject: FOIA request

FOI

Jim McElhatton
319 N. Alfred St.
Alexandria, Va. 22314
(202) 641-1385

June 21, 2010

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Public Reference Facility (OFA56)
1315 East West Highway (SSMC3)
Room 10730
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear FOIA Officer:

This letter constitutes a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 on behalf of The Washington Times, a general interest newspaper with a place of business at 3600 New York Avenue NE, Washington DC 20002. The requester is a member of the news media within the statutory and regulatory mandate.

The requester seeks disclosure of written correspondence from members of Congress to NOAA, along with agency responses, pertaining to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico of April 20, 2010, to date. If possible, I seek copies of responsive records in electronic format, but if hard copies are easier to process then that is fine, too.

The Washington Times seeks a waiver of all costs as disclosure of this information is in the public interest: specifically, the records would shed light on the federal response, including the actions of members of Congress, in response to the oil spill, an issue affecting millions of U.S. citizens. The records requested are not sought for commercial use. Expedited processing is sought because there is a timely and urgent need to inform the public about this issue, as there is not only widespread public concern about the oil spill but official reaction as well. The oil spill is a breaking and unfolding story and it remains a top concern from affected citizens to the White House. The public has a right and need to know about the actions, and interactions, of its elected officials and federal agencies such as NOAA concerning the oil spill.

Pursuant to applicable regulations and statute, the Washington Times expects the determination of this request for expedited processing within 10 calendar days and the determination of this request for documents within 20 days. If this request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions to FOIA. I also expect the release of all segregable

portions of otherwise exempt material. I also ask that you inform me, if my request for a fee waiver is denied, if fees are expected to exceed $25.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please furnish all applicable records to:

Jim McElhatton,
Washington Times reporter
319 N. Alfred St.
Alexandria, Va. 22314
jimmcelhat@yahoo.com / jmcelhatton@washingtontimes.com

Sincerely,

Jim McElhatton
Washington Times
(202) 641-1385

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