

Section I – Basic Information

1. Contact Information For Questions About this Report:

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USTDA
1101 Wilson Blvd, Suite 1101
Arlington, VA 22209
703-875-5014

2. Link to Report: [The Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\) – USTDA](#)

3. Obtain a Paper Copy of this Report:

Visit our [Public Access Link](#) site, **OR**

Mail your request to the following address:

FOIA Requester Service Center
U.S. Trade and Development Agency
1101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

Section II – Making a FOIA Request

1. Visit our [Public Access Link](#) site

2. Send a FOIA request to:

**FOIA Requester Service Center
U.S. Trade and Development Agency
1101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22209-3901**

Even though you are entitled to make a FOIA Request, USTDA has an obligation to review each request to ensure that the information you request is releaseable. Some exemptions that will prevent USTDA from releasing information you request include, information that is protected from release because it is an invasion of privacy, information that is of a business proprietary nature, and certain classified information. The response letter you get from us will explain if any of the information you requested was withheld and the reasons for withholding the information. USTDA does not have any FOIA regulations.

Section III – Acronyms and Definitions

- 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 or component within the same 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 or component within the same 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 "thirdparty" 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 nonU.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, Department of Justice Annual FOIA Report Handbook 22 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 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 (nonexpedited) 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. Department of Justice Annual FOIA Report Handbook 23

o. **Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal** – a request or administrative appeal for 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). 2. Include the following concise descriptions of the nine FOIA exemptions: a. Exemption 1: classified national defense and foreign relations information b. Exemption 2: information that is related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency 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 a. Exemption 8: information relating to the supervision of financial institutions b. Exemption 9: geological information on wells.

3. Agency Component Abbreviations

Component Abbreviation	Component Name
USTDA	United States Trade and Development Agency

IV. Exemption 3 Statutes

Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Agency / Component	Number of Times Relied upon by Agency / Component	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency

					Overall
41 U.S.C. § 2102 (amending 41 U.S.C. § 423(a)(1))	Contractor bid or proposal information; source selection information	Legal & Safety Emp. Rsch., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of the Army, No. Civ. S001748, 2001 WL 34098652, at *3-4 (E.D. Cal. May 4, 2001) (dictum).	USTDA	1	1

V.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED AND PENDING FOIA REQUESTS

Agency / Component	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
USTDA	55	39	80	14
AGENCY OVERALL	55	39	80	14

After reviewing its database, USTDA updated the number of requests pending at the start of the Fiscal Year.

V.B.(1). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- ALL PROCESSED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Full Grants	Number of Partial Grants / Partial	Number of Full Denials Based on Exemptions	Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									TOTAL
				No Records	All Records Referred to Another Component	Request Withdrawn	Fee-Related Reason	Records not Reasonably	Improper FOIA Request for Other	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request	Other *Explain in Chart	

USTDA	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VI.A. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	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
USTDA	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0

VI.B. DISPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS -- ALL PROCESSED APPEALS

Agency / Component	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

USTDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VI.C.(3). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- "OTHER" REASONS

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C(2)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
USTDA	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

VI.C.(4). RESPONSE TIME FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USTDA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A
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VI.C.(5). TEN OLDEST PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Appeal	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal
USTDA	Date of Appeal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Appeal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VII.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR ALL PROCESSED PERFECTED REQUESTS

Agency /	SIMPLE	COMPLEX	EXPEDITED PROCESSING
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Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USTDA	391	636.3	1	2123	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	391	636.3	1	2123	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

VII.B. PROCESSED REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR PERFECTED REQUESTS IN WHICH INFORMATION WAS GRANTED

Agency / Component	SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
USTDA	91.5	460.6	1	1825	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	91.5	460.6	1	1825	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

VII.C. PROCESSED SIMPLE REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	101-120	121-140	141-160	161-180	181-200	201-300	301-400	401+ Days	TOTAL
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	Pending										
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Receipt	2023- 09-15	2023- 09-15	2023- 09-15	2023- 09-15	2023- 09-15	2023- 09-15	2023- 09-15	2023- 08-30	2023- 08-30	2023- 08-30
	Number of Days Pending	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	21	21	21

VIII.A. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING

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

VIII.B. Requests for Fee Waiver

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to	Average Number of Days
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			Adjudicate	to Adjudicate
USTDA	0	0	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	N/A	N/A

IX. FOIA Personnel and Costs

Agency / Component	PERSONNEL			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
USTDA	0	0.60	0.60	20000.00	0.00	20000.00
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0.60	0.60	20000.00	0.00	20000.00

X. Fees Collected for Processing Requests

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
USTDA	0.00	0.0000
AGENCY OVERALL	0.00	0.0000

XI.A. Number of Times Subsection (C) Used

Agency / Component	Number of Times Subsection Used
USTDA	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0

XI.B. Number of Subsection (A)(2) Postings

Agency / Component	Number of Records Posted	Number of Records Posted
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	by the FOIA Office	by Program Offices
USTDA	0	1
AGENCY OVERALL	0	1

XII.A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year
USTDA	14	0
AGENCY OVERALL	14	0

XII.B. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING CONSULTATIONS

Agency / Component	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies	Number of Consultations <u>Received</u> from Other Agencies	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies	Number of Consultations Received from Other Agencies

XII.D.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- REQUESTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>PROCESSED</u>	
	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
USTDA	21	39	16	80
AGENCY OVERALL	21	39	16	80

XII.D.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	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
USTDA	49	14

AGENCY OVERALL	49	14
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XII.E.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- APPEALS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>PROCESSED</u>	
	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
USTDA	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0

XII.E.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED APPEALS

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