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January 31, 2020

Neal Cornett, Esq.

By e-mail only to: [ncornettlaw@gmail.com](mailto:ncornettlaw@gmail.com)

Re: Vermont Access to Public Records Act Request

Dear Attorney Cornett:

By e-mail dated January 22, 2020, you have continued to narrow a Public Records Act request previously made by Matthew Hardin and Energy Policy Advocates. Previously, in a December 27, 2019 e-mail you narrowed an October 14, 2019 request to now seek:

*all correspondence, and any accompanying information, including also any attachments, that a) was sent to or from or copies (whether as cc: or bcc:) Robert McDougall, that b) also includes, anywhere, the following search terms i) PFOS, ii) PFAS, and/or iii) PFOA, that c) was sent to or from or copies any party outside of the [vermont.gov](http://vermont.gov) domain, and which is d) dated from March 27, 2019 through the date you process this request, inclusive.*

Your January 22, 2020 e-mail narrows that request by excluding the following categories from review:

*1) correspondence that is purely internal, by and between individuals communicating solely within the [@vermont.gov](http://vermont.gov) domain concerning i) Docket No. 92-4-19, ii) Docket No. 547-6-19, and/or iii) No. 2:19-cv-00134;*

*2) correspondence between the State of Vermont and outside counsel concerning i) Docket No. 92-4-19, ii) Docket No. 547-6-19, and/or iii) No. 2:19-cv-00134;*

*3) correspondence between the State of Vermont and opposing counsel concerning i) Docket No. 92-4-19, ii) Docket No. 547-6-19, and/or iii) No. 2:19-cv-00134; and*

*4) pleadings, docketed materials, and notices of electronic filing concerning i) Docket No. 92-4-19, ii) Docket No. 547-6-19, and/or iii) No. 2:19-cv-00134.*

Further, you specifically noted that Energy Policy Advocates does not exclude from review communications with the press, constituents or “other public bodies, including states, from review unless those bodies are co-parties with the State of Vermont in the aforementioned litigations.”

Based upon the above narrowing, our preliminary review has identified approximately 150 records which may be responsive to your request, nearly 50 of which contain attachments. Some of these records may be exempt from disclosure in full or contain portions which may be exempt from disclosure.

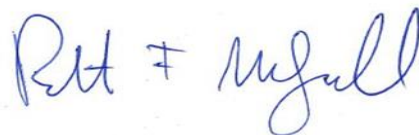
We estimate the costs to fulfill your request may be expected to be between \$150 and \$200 dollars. This is based on a conservative estimate of the total number of pages and the estimated time needed to review and possibly redact these records, billed at the lowest possible rate under the Secretary of State’s fee schedule (\$.33 per minute). The cost may be higher if more time is needed. This office has already expended 30 minutes performing its preliminary review.

By way of this letter, we are asking you to confirm that you are willing to pay the costs associated with fulfilling your request.

Given the above, we will await further instruction before we process your request further.

Please also be aware that I will be away from the office the week of February 3-7.

Sincerely,



Robert F. McDougall  
Assistant Attorney General