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**STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001**

February 24, 2020

Neal Cornett, Esq.

By e-mail only to: ncornettlaw@gmail.com

Re: Vermont Access to Public Records Act Request

Dear Attorney Cornett:

By e-mail dated December 27, 2019, you narrowed Public Record Act requests originally made by Matthew Hardin and Energy Policy Advocates. In your December 27, 2019 e-mail you narrowed an October 14, 2019 request to 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 domain, and which is d) dated from March 27, 2019 through the date you process this request, inclusive.

On January 22, 2020, by e-mail, you narrowed the request further to exclude 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.

In that same January 22nd e-mail you specifically stated that Energy Policy Advocates does not exclude “*any communications with the press... any communications with constituents... [and] communications with other public bodies, including states, from review unless those bodies are co-parties with the State of Vermont in the aforementioned litigations.*”

In response to your request, responsive documents have been uploaded to the Vermont Attorney General’s website. The documents can be viewed by clicking on the “Open Government” tab of the Attorney General’s Office front page (<https://ago.vermont.gov/open-government/>) and then clicking on the link for 2019 under the “Public Records Act Request Received by AGO” heading. On the 2019 page, you can find the documents, along with a copy of this cover letter by scrolling down to October 14, 2019, the original request date for this request. Because of the number of pages being produced, the responsive documents are broken into multiple pieces on the website.

Please be advised that private phone numbers and e-mail addresses have been redacted from the responsive documents to protect privacy. See 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(10).

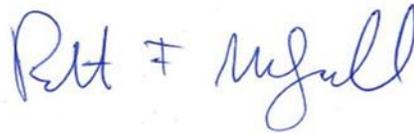
Additionally, please be advised that thirty records which may also be responsive to your request have been withheld as exempt from disclosure. These potentially responsive records are exempt from disclosure pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(4) (lawyer-client privilege, attorney work product). These records include communications between this office and other state attorney general offices which are subject to a common interest agreement(s).

For time and costs associated with filling this request, please send payment of \$170.30 to the Attorney General’s Office at the address below. Checks should be made out to “State of Vermont.” Payment may be sent to:

Robert F. McDougall, Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

If you feel any information or records have been withheld in error, you may appeal to Deputy Attorney General Joshua Diamond via the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R F McDougall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "F".

Robert F. McDougall
Assistant Attorney General