March 25, 2026—Sent via email

Kyle Moring
[redacted]

Dear Kyle Moring:

Thank you for contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), an office in the National Archives and Records Administration. Congress created OGIS to serve as the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Ombuds. We assist the public and federal agencies by helping them resolve their FOIA disputes, and by addressing their questions and concerns about the FOIA process. The FOIA directs agencies to include information about OGIS in all adverse FOIA response letters, including those related to processing delays.

We carefully reviewed your submission and understand you seek assistance with multiple FOIA requests across two agencies. Pertaining to the pending requests with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), it is important to know that all federal agencies are required to provide an estimated date of completion *when asked* (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(7)(B)(ii)). Please note, OGIS strives to complement existing FOIA practice and procedures; when assisting requesters, we consider how we can best resolve a dispute while allowing the FOIA administrative process to proceed without unnecessary interference. At this time, we encourage you to contact the DOL FOIA Public Liaison—whose role is to assist requesters with their FOIA requests at any stage of the administrative process—for information regarding the status of your request. In your submission, you express interest in narrowing the scope of one or both requests in an effort to receive a more efficient response. The DOL FPL is the appropriate agency official to assist in refining the scope of a request. In order to obtain an estimated date of completion and discuss the processing of your requests, we recommend that you contact the DOL directly at dolpublicliaison@dol.gov.

We understand that you have also contacted the FOIA processor assigned to your request for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to obtain information regarding the status of your pending FOIA request but have received no reply. Please be aware that if an agency chooses not to respond to a request for status information, OGIS cannot compel it to do so. When FOIA requesters reach out to OGIS regarding a delay, OGIS works to open the lines of communication between the requester and the agency. As such, in our role as the FOIA Ombuds, we are forwarding this response to EPA FOIA staff so that they are aware that you are attempting to communicate with them. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention, as it assists us with our review of agency compliance with the FOIA.

We hope you find this information useful. If you have questions or concerns about the FOIA process that we have not addressed, please contact us again.

Best regards,

The OGIS Staff

Cc: EPA FOIA Staff