

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:23-cv-01714-RCL**

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH et al v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Assigned to: Judge Royce C. Lamberth

Related Case: [1:22-cv-01518-RCL](#)

Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 06/13/2023

Jury Demand: None

Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of Information Act

Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**

represented by **William Stewart Eubanks , II**  
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**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Plaintiff**

**LUKAS ROSS**

*Program Manager; Climate and Energy Program*

represented by **William Stewart Eubanks , II**  
(See above for address)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Elizabeth Leigh Lewis**  
(See above for address)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Sam Escher**  
DOJ-USAO  
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**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
06/13/2023	<a href="#"><u>1</u></a>	COMPLAINT against U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 402 receipt number ADCDC-10135472) filed by FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, LUKAS ROSS. (Attachments: # <a href="#"><u>1</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 1, part 1 of 3, # <a href="#"><u>2</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 1, part 2 of 3, # <a href="#"><u>3</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 1, part 3 of 3, # <a href="#"><u>4</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 2, # <a href="#"><u>5</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 3, # <a href="#"><u>6</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 4, # <a href="#"><u>7</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 5, # <a href="#"><u>8</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 6, # <a href="#"><u>9</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 7, # <a href="#"><u>10</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 8, # <a href="#"><u>11</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 9, # <a href="#"><u>12</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit 10, # <a href="#"><u>13</u></a> Exhibit Exhibit

		11, # <u>14</u> Exhibit Exhibit 12, # <u>15</u> Exhibit Exhibit 13, # <u>16</u> Exhibit Exhibit 14, # <u>17</u> Exhibit Exhibit 15, # <u>18</u> Exhibit Exhibit 16, # <u>19</u> Exhibit Exhibit 17, # <u>20</u> Exhibit Exhibit 18, # <u>21</u> Exhibit Exhibit 19, # <u>22</u> Civil Cover Sheet Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>23</u> Summons Summons)(Lewis, Elizabeth) (Entered: 06/13/2023)
06/13/2023	<u>2</u>	NOTICE OF RELATED CASE by FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, LUKAS ROSS. Case related to Case No. 22-cv-01518. (Lewis, Elizabeth) (Entered: 06/13/2023)
06/14/2023		Case Assigned to Judge Royce C. Lamberth. (zrtw) (Entered: 06/14/2023)
06/14/2023	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zrtw) (Entered: 06/14/2023)
07/19/2023	<u>4</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>Respond to Complaint</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Escher, Sam) (Entered: 07/19/2023)
07/26/2023	<u>5</u>	ORDER granting Consent Motion <u>4</u> for Extension of Time. Defendant's response due by 08/23/2023. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 07/25/2023. (lcrc11) (Entered: 07/26/2023)
08/23/2023	<u>6</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Escher, Sam) (Entered: 08/23/2023)
08/24/2023	<u>7</u>	ORDER: Local Rule 16.3(b)(10) exempts parties to a FOIA action from typical scheduling order requirements. Instead, the government has the burden to produce a Vaughn index with a supporting dispositive motion. The Court therefore ORDERS the government to file the index and supporting motion within 30 days. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 8/24/2023. (lcrc12) (Entered: 08/24/2023)
09/25/2023	<u>8</u>	MOTION to Stay <i>Summary Judgment Briefing for 60-Day Joint Status Reports Instead</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Escher, Sam) (Entered: 09/25/2023)
09/25/2023	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by William Stewart Eubanks, II on behalf of FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, LUKAS ROSS (Eubanks, William) (Entered: 09/25/2023)
09/27/2023	<u>10</u>	ORDER granting Motion <u>8</u> to Stay Summary Judgment Briefing. Joint Status Reports are due every 60 days. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 9/27/2023. (lcrc12) (Entered: 09/27/2023)
09/29/2023	<u>11</u>	MOTION for Reconsideration re <u>10</u> Order on Motion to Stay by FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, LUKAS ROSS. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order Proposed Order)(Lewis, Elizabeth) (Entered: 09/29/2023)
10/12/2023	<u>12</u>	MOTION for Extension of Time to File Response/Reply as to <u>11</u> MOTION for Reconsideration re <u>10</u> Order on Motion to Stay by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Plaintiffs' Proposed Order, # <u>2</u> Defendant's Proposed Order)(Escher, Sam) (Entered: 10/12/2023)
10/17/2023	<u>13</u>	ORDER granting Motion <u>12</u> for Extension of Time to File Response/Reply re Motion <u>11</u> for Reconsideration. Defendant must respond to Plaintiffs' motion for reconsideration by 10/27/2023. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 10/16/2023. (lcrc12) (Entered: 10/17/2023)
10/27/2023	<u>14</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>11</u> Motion for Reconsideration filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Escher, Sam) (Entered: 10/27/2023)
11/03/2023	<u>15</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>11</u> MOTION for Reconsideration re <u>10</u> Order on Motion to Stay filed by FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, LUKAS ROSS. (Lewis, Elizabeth) (Entered: 11/03/2023)
11/27/2023	<u>16</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Escher, Sam) (Entered: 11/27/2023)
01/26/2024	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Escher, Sam) (Entered: 01/26/2024)

02/01/2024	<u>18</u>	MOTION Status Conference by FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, LUKAS ROSS. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order Text of Proposed Order)(Lewis, Elizabeth) Modified event text on 2/7/2024 (zdp). (Entered: 02/01/2024)
02/15/2024	<u>19</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>18</u> Motion for Hearing filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Escher, Sam) (Entered: 02/15/2024)
02/22/2024	<u>20</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>18</u> MOTION for Hearing filed by FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, LUKAS ROSS. (Eubanks, William) (Entered: 02/22/2024)
03/26/2024	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Escher, Sam) (Entered: 03/26/2024)
05/29/2024	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Escher, Sam) (Entered: 05/29/2024)
07/29/2024	<u>23</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Escher, Sam) (Entered: 07/29/2024)
09/24/2024	<u>24</u>	ORDER: Upon consideration of the plaintiffs' Motion <u>11</u> for Reconsideration and Motion <u>18</u> for a Status Conference, and the entire record herein, it is hereby ORDERED that the Motion for Reconsideration is DENIED; and it is further ORDERED that the Motion for a Status Conference is GRANTED; and it is further ORDERED that the parties shall convene for a status conference at 10:00 AM on October 22, 2024 in Courtroom 15. See Order for details. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 09/23/2024. (lcrcl2) (Entered: 09/24/2024)