

EXHIBIT F

From: [Stewart, Trip](#)
To: [Appeals, FOIA; FOIAStatus@state.gov](#)
Cc: [Sofer, Gregg](#)
Subject: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:57:03 AM
Attachments: [FOIA Appeal Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062 .msg](#)

Good morning,

We sent the attached FOIA appeal on February 26th and have yet to receive a response to our appeal. Under BIS's FOIA regulations, the agency has twenty working days to respond to our appeal. 15 CFR § 4.10 (e). Twenty working days from February 26th was **March 25th**, which was a week ago. Pursuant to 15 CFR § 4.10(e), our request is "deemed to have exhausted all administrative remedies with respect to the request, giving rise to a right of judicial review under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(C)."

While our preference would be to resolve this through the appeals process, we will have no choice but to resort to the courts if the agency cannot commit to provide us a timely response. As such, we request that the agency provide us a date certain when a response to our appeal will be forthcoming.

We reserve all rights and remedies.

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate

HUSCH BLACKWELL

1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006-3606

Direct: [202-378-2307](tel:202-378-2307)

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George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

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From: [Stewart, Trip](#)
To: [Appeals, FOIA](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Kuo](#); [Stephanie Boucher](#); [Sofer, Gregg](#)
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 11:14:00 AM
Importance: High

Good morning,

I have not received a response from your office yet. Can you please provide me a date when you plan to respond to our appeal?

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate
Direct: [202-378-2307](tel:202-378-2307)
George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

From: Stewart, Trip
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 10:23 AM
To: Appeals, FOIA <foiaappeals@doc.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Kuo <Jennifer.Kuo@bis.doc.gov>; Stephanie Boucher <stephanie.boucher@bis.doc.gov>; Sofer, Gregg <Gregg.Sofer@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062
Importance: High

Good morning,

We have reached out several times regarding the status of this appeal and have received no response. Can you please provide us a date certain when you will have a decision as soon as possible?

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate
Direct: [202-378-2307](tel:202-378-2307)
George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

From: Stewart, Trip
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 11:52 AM
To: Appeals, FOIA <foiaappeals@doc.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Kuo <Jennifer.Kuo@bis.doc.gov>; Stephanie Boucher <stephanie.boucher@bis.doc.gov>; Sofer, Gregg <Gregg.Sofer@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

Good morning,

Can you please provide us the status of this appeal? We have submitted this appeal over 20 business days ago. My understand is that we should have received a response by now.

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate
Direct: [202-378-2307](tel:202-378-2307)
George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

From: Appeals, FOIA <foiaappeals@doc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:12 AM
To: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>; Appeals, FOIA <foiaappeals@doc.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Kuo <Jennifer.Kuo@bis.doc.gov>; Stephanie Boucher <stephanie.boucher@bis.doc.gov>; Sofer, Gregg <Gregg.Sofer@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

EXTERNAL .GOV EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

We have received your FOIA appeal and assigned each request its own appeal tracking number:

DOC-BIS-2023-010061 / DOC-InfoLaw-2024-000025

DOC-BIS-2023-010062 / DOC-InfoLaw-2024-000026

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Allyson Deitrick, Chief
Information Law Division
Office of the General Counsel
Room 5896
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230
Office: (202) 482-3171
Mobile: (202) 322-2548

From: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 7:54 PM
To: Appeals, FOIA <foiaappeals@doc.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Kuo <Jennifer.Kuo@bis.doc.gov>; Stephanie Boucher <stephanie.boucher@bis.doc.gov>; Sofer, Gregg <Gregg.Sofer@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening,

Please see the attached FOIA appeal on behalf of Gregg Sofer for the above-referenced FOIA requests. A copy of this letter is also being sent via FedEx to your office.

Please confirm receipt.

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate

HUSCH BLACKWELL

1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006-3606

Direct: [202-378-2307](tel:202-378-2307)

Fax: [202-378-2319](tel:202-378-2319)

George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

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From: [Stewart, Trip](#)
To: [Petroff, Alyssa \(Federal\)](#)
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062
Date: Friday, May 31, 2024 2:20:53 PM

Good afternoon,

Has there been any progress in terms of the appeal?

Also, we filed a similar request to another agency and there seems to be a discrepancy in the total number of documents that are responsive to our request. Are you able to confirm how many documents are being withheld by BIS? Our understanding is that another agency is only claiming there is one document with attachments.

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate
Direct: 202-378-2307
George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

From: Petroff, Alyssa (Federal) <APetroff@doc.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 11:18 AM
To: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Good Morning Mr. Stewart,

I am the attorney assigned to the referenced FOIA appeals. Although I do not, at this time, have a specific date for when you can expect a response, I am nonetheless working through the appeals and will reach out when a decision has been made.

Regards,
Alyssa Petroff
Attorney | Information Law Division
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Department of Commerce

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From: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 10:11 AM
To: Petroff, Alyssa (Federal) <APetroff@doc.gov>
Subject: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062
Importance: High

Good morning,

I am reaching out to you because I understand you are the attorney reviewing the FOIA appeals I filed in response to the above-referenced FOIA requests. I have reached out to the agency numerous times about the status of my appeals, and I have received no information about the status of my appeals. For reference, I filed these appeals almost three months ago on February 26, 2024, and I should have received a response no later than March 25, 2024—i.e. 20 working days under 15 CFR § 4.10 (e). My understanding is that your office has assigned the specific appeals the following numbers:

DOC-BIS-2023-010061 / DOC-InfoLaw-2024-000025

DOC-BIS-2023-010062 / DOC-InfoLaw-2024-000026

I request that you provide a date certain as soon as possible for when I can expect responses to my appeals. While I am hoping to resolve this through the appeals process, I will seek court intervention if the agency continues to ignore my status requests and/or does not issue an appeal decision.

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate

HUSCH BLACKWELL

1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20006-3606

Direct: [202-378-2307](tel:202-378-2307)

Fax: [202-378-2319](tel:202-378-2319)

George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

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From: [Stewart, Trip](#)
To: [Petroff, Alyssa \(Federal\)](#)
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062
Date: Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:21:00 PM

Thank you for the quick response.

Do you at least have a timeframe for when we can expect a decision? It has been four months since we submitted our appeal.

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate
Direct: 202-378-2307
George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

From: Petroff, Alyssa (Federal) <APetroff@doc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:18 PM
To: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Hello Mr. Stewart,

I do not have an update on the appeal. In response to your earlier email, I do not have the total number of documents that are responsive to your request. If you filed a request with another agency, that agency will respond to you. The agency may refer your request to BIS, in which case BIS will respond to you.

Regards,
Alyssa Petroff
Attorney | Information Law Division
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Department of Commerce
Cell: (240) 246-4389

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From: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:13 PM
To: Petroff, Alyssa (Federal) <APetroff@doc.gov>
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

Good afternoon,

Has there been any updates on these appeals?

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate
Direct: [202-378-2307](tel:202-378-2307)
George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

From: Petroff, Alyssa (Federal) <APetroff@doc.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 2:21 PM
To: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: Automatic reply: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Please note, I am currently out of the office and will return on Monday, June 3.

From: [Stewart, Trip](#)
To: [Petroff, Alyssa \(Federal\)](#)
Cc: [Sofer, Gregg](#)
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 12:43:00 PM
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Please provide more information regarding the below email.

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate
Direct: [202-378-2307](tel:202-378-2307)
George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

From: Stewart, Trip
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2024 12:09 PM
To: Petroff, Alyssa (Federal) <APetroff@doc.gov>
Cc: Sofer, Gregg <Gregg.Sofer@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062
Importance: High

Good afternoon,

We submitted our FOIA appeal almost five months ago on February 26th, and we have yet to receive a formal decision. It has been well more than 20 business days. We have been more than patient with you all during this process, but we are getting to the point we can no longer wait on what appears to be a decision that will never be forthcoming.

Please confirm that you intend to issue a decision no later than **July 26, 2024**.

We reserve all rights and remedies.

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate
Direct: [202-378-2307](tel:202-378-2307)
George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

From: Petroff, Alyssa (Federal) <APetroff@doc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:18 PM
To: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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Regards,
Alyssa Petroff
Attorney | Information Law Division
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From: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 1:13 PM
To: Petroff, Alyssa (Federal) <APetroff@doc.gov>
Subject: RE: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

Good afternoon,

Has there been any updates on these appeals?

Regards,

George Stewart
Senior Associate
Direct: 202-378-2307
George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com

From: Petroff, Alyssa (Federal) <APetroff@doc.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 2:21 PM
To: Stewart, Trip <George.Stewart@huschblackwell.com>
Subject: Automatic reply: FOIA Appeal, Nos. DOC-BIS-2023-010061 and DOC-BIS-2023-010062

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

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