



**U.S. Department of Justice** 

Environment and Natural Resources Division

## 236380-4-1-17-04489

Law and Policy Section P.O. Box 7415 Washington, DC 20044

## Sent via Email

Ian Bassin The Protect Democracy Project 2020 Pennsylvania Avenue NW #163 Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 599-0466 INFO@protectdemocracy.org Telephone (202) 514-1442 Facsimile (202) 514-4231

AUG 1 1 2017

FOIA No.: 2017-04489

Dear Mr. Bassin,

On May 23, 2017, the Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for, among other things, all records related to White House staff, including but not limited to email domain addresses ending in "eop.gov," and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) employees regarding pending investigations or policies governing communications, including but not limited to the Memorandum issued by presidential counsel Donald F. McGahn dated, January 27, 2017, titled *Communications Restrictions with Personnel at DOJ*; the Memorandum issued by Attorney General Eric Holder dated May 11, 2009, titled *Communications with the White House and Congress*; and the Memorandum issued by Attorney General Mukasey dated December 19, 2007, titled *Communications with the White House* for the time period of January 20, 2017 through the date that searches are conducted. You also requested all records describing the processing of this FOIA request, including records of search terms used and custodians searched.

Our response to your request will likely require consultation with another agency. Due to these "unusual circumstances" as defined in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(iii), ENRD will be unable to process your request within the 20 business-day time limit specified in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A). We do not have an estimated completion date for your request, but anticipate that we will require more than ten additional working days.

We understand that you also seek a waiver of fees associated with your request. We are evaluating your eligibility for a fee waiver and will contact you if we need further information.

Department personnel are available to assist you in further narrowing the scope of your request so that it may be processed within the specified time limits or in arranging with you an

alternative time frame for processing your request or a modified request. Please contact Laurie Dubriel of this office at (202) 616-7349 if you would like to discuss these options. In addition, ENRD's FOIA Public Liaison, Amber Blaha, is available at (202) 616-5515. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services at (202) 741-5770 or toll-free at 1-877-684-6448 to inquire about the FOIA dispute resolution services they offer.

Sincerely,

CUS

Charles Smiroldo ENRD FOIA Coordinator