

(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(8) Contained in or related to examination, operation, or condition of reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps concerning wells.

(c) Whenever a request is made which involves access to records described in paragraph (b)(7)(i) of this section and:

(1) The investigation or proceeding involves a possible violation of criminal law; and

(2) There is reason to believe that:

(i) The subject of the investigation or proceeding is not aware of its pendency, and

(ii) Disclosure of the existence of the records could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, then the agency may, during only such time as that circumstance continues, treat the records as not subject to the requirements of this section.

(d) Whenever informant records maintained by a criminal law enforcement agency under an informant's name or personal identifier are requested by a third party according to the informant's name or personal identifier, the agency may treat the records as not subject to the requirements of this section unless the informant's status as an informant has been officially confirmed.

(e) Whenever a request is made which involves access to records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation pertaining to foreign intelligence or counterintelligence, or international terrorism, and the existence of the records is classified information as provided in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the Bureau may, as long as the existence of the records remains classified information, treat the records as

not subject to the requirements of this section.

### § 51-8.3 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) The term *Act* means the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), as amended.

(b) The term *Chairperson* means the Chairperson of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

(c) The term *Executive Director* means the Executive Director of the Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled.

(d) The term *exempt materials* means those materials described in § 51-8.2(b).

(e) The term *non-exempt materials* refers to all materials described in § 51-8.2(a), except *exempt materials* included in § 51-8.2(b).

(f) The term *duplication* refers to the process of making a copy of a document necessary to respond to a request. Such copies can take the form of paper copy, audio-visual materials, or machine readable materials (e.g., magnetic tape or disk), among others.

(g) The term *search* includes all time spent looking for material that is responsive to a request, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material within documents.

(h) The term *review* refers to the process of examining documents located in response to a request that is for a commercial use to determine whether any portion of any document located is permitted to be withheld. It also includes processing any documents for disclosure, e.g., doing all that is necessary to excise them and otherwise prepare them for release. Review does not include time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of exemptions.

[54 FR 15189, Apr. 17, 1989. Redesignated at 56 FR 48983, Sept. 26, 1991, and amended at 59 FR 59344, Nov. 16, 1994]

### § 51-8.4 Availability of materials.

Material described in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(2) shall be available for inspection during normal business hours at the Committee's offices, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302. An individual who intends to visit

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the Committee offices to inspect this material shall make an appointment with the Executive Director at least one week in advance, except when the Committee has provided notification to the individual that the material is available for inspection in the Committee offices, in which case an appointment must be made at least 24 hours in advance.

[59 FR 59344, Nov. 16, 1994, as amended at 63 FR 16440, Apr. 3, 1998]

### § 51-8.5 Requests for records.

(a) Requests to obtain copies of any material maintained by the Committee must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director at the Committee's offices, Crystal Gateway 3, Suite 310, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-4302. The requester may in his or her petition ask for a fee waiver if there is likely to be a charge for the requested information. All requests for records shall be deemed to have been made pursuant to the FOIA, regardless of whether the Act is specifically mentioned. Failure to submit a request in accordance with these procedures may delay the processing of the request.

(b) A request must reasonably describe the records to enable agency personnel to locate them with reasonable effort. Where possible, a requester should supply specific information regarding dates, titles, and other identification which will help to identify the records.

(c) If the Committee determines that a request does not reasonably describe the records, it shall inform the requester of this fact and extend to the requester an opportunity to clarify the request or to confer promptly with knowledgeable agency personnel to attempt to identify the records he or she is seeking. The "date of receipt" in such instances shall be the date of receipt of the amended or clarified request.

(d) Nothing in this part shall be interpreted to preclude the Committee from honoring an oral request for information, but, if the requester is dissatisfied with the response, the Committee official involved shall advise the requester to submit a written request in accordance with paragraph (a)

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of this section. The "date of receipt" of such a request shall be the date of receipt of the written request. For recordkeeping purposes, the Committee in responding to an oral request for information may ask the requester to confirm the oral request in writing.

[54 FR 15189, Apr. 17, 1989. Redesignated at 56 FR 48983, Sept. 26, 1991, and amended at 59 FR 59345, Nov. 16, 1994; 63 FR 16440, Apr. 3, 1998]

### § 51-8.6 Aggregating requests.

When the Committee reasonably believes that a requester, or a group of requesters acting in concert, is attempting to break a request down into a series of requests for the purpose of evading the assessment of fees, the Committee may aggregate any such requests and charge accordingly. Elements to be considered in determining whether a belief would be reasonable include the time period in which the requests have occurred and the subject matter involved.

### § 51-8.7 Committee response to requests for records.

(a) An initial determination whether, and to what extent, to grant each request for records or a fee waiver shall be made by the Executive Director within 10 days (excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) after receipt of that request. The person making the request shall be notified as soon as the determination is made.

(b) In making an initial determination whether and to what extent requested information will be released, the Committee shall first consider whether the material requested is of a type described in § 51-8.2(a); if it is, the request shall be granted unless the material is exempted by § 51-8.2(b). If the material requested is not a type described in § 51-8.2(a), or is the subject of one or more exemptions, the request may be denied.

(c) If a determination is made to grant a request, the relevant material shall be furnished as soon as possible following the determination to grant the request, and after payment of the fee specified in § 51-8.12 when required, except that copies of less than 10 pages