



Noah Gittell  
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12/06/2010 01:59 PM

To "foia.officer@aphis.usda.gov" <foia.officer@aphis.usda.gov>  
cc Noah Gittell <NGittell@pcrm.org>  
bcc  
Subject FOIA Request Submission

120

Incl

AC  
Sophie

(see clarifications)

**PCRM**

PHYSICIANS  
COMMITTEE  
FOR  
RESPONSIBLE  
MEDICINE

5100 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 400  
WASHINGTON, DC 20016  
T: (202) 686-2210 F: (202) 686-2216  
PCRM@PCRM.ORG WWW.PCRM.ORG

December 6, 2010

Tonya Woods, FOIA Director  
Legislative and Public Affairs  
Freedom of Information Act  
4700 River Road, Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD 20737  
Phone: (301) 734-8296

JAN - 5 2011

Submitted via e-mail (foia.officer@aphis.usda.gov) and Fax (301-734 -5941)

Dear Ms. Woods:

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) is submitting this Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 551 *et seq.* The agency must respond to this, and all FOIA requests, with the "presumption in favor of disclosure, in order to renew [its] commitment to the principles embodied in FOIA, and to usher in a new era of open Government."<sup>[1]</sup> PCRM and the public have a right to demand public accountability from federal agencies like the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). "In the face of doubt, openness prevails."<sup>[2]</sup>

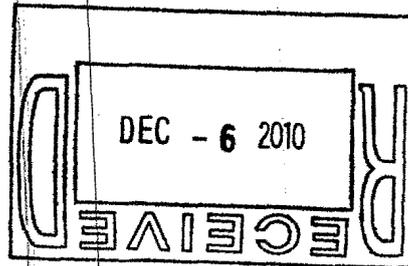
PCRM seeks copies of the following:

**Period:** October 20, 2010 to present

**Scope:**

- 1) All documents, including but not limited to inspection memos, related to the October 24, 2010 APHIS inspection of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

PCRM is willing to pay processing fees up to two hundred dollars (\$200). However, should the price exceed this amount, kindly notify me before the request is processed, so that PCRM may decide whether to pay the additional fees or, instead, to appeal for a reduction.



As provided for in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i) and 7 C.F.R. § 1.7, PCRM awaits a response within 20 working days. In keeping with the presumption of disclosure and the agency's obligation to "act promptly and in a spirit of cooperation,"<sup>[1]</sup> PCRM asks that a specific reason be given with respect to any document that is not produced in accordance with this request. In particular, please indicate whether it is claimed that the records (a) do not exist in the form requested; (b) have never existed; (c) have been destroyed; or (d) are exempt from disclosure under a specifically identified provision of FOIA. If it is asserted that USDA retains information relevant to this request in a form different from that sought here, please advise as to the form in which the information is retained such that PCRM can refine this request. If further information is necessary, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above number.

Sincerely,

Noah Gittell  
Research and Education Programs Coordinator  
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine  
5100 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
(p) 202.527.7334 (f) 202.527.7434  
ngittell@pcrm.org

<sup>[1]</sup> The White House, President Barack Obama. *Memorandum of January 21, 2009—Freedom of Information Act* . 74 Fed. Reg. 4681 (Jan. 26, 2009).

<sup>[2]</sup> *Id.*

<sup>[3]</sup> The White House, President Barack Obama. *Memorandum of January 21, 2009—Freedom of Information Act* . 74 Fed. Reg. 4681 (Jan. 26, 2009).

To: Lila Kanovsky

From: Tonya Woods

Date: December 7, 2010

I called to get a clarification from the requester. He is looking for any detailed narratives that the inspector would write about concerning the individual inspections, if any. You all will have to canvass the inspectors as well as the official facility file. **He is not looking for the inspection report.**

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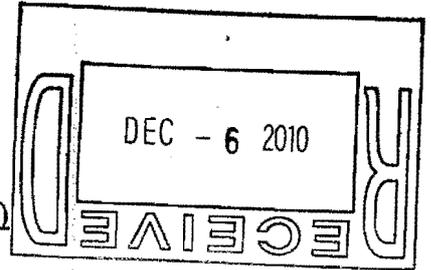
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AC Sophie

Get clarification

December 6, 2010

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