

11- 713

Sophie  
AC  
IES



Sophana N  
Lau-Lopez/MD/APHIS/USDA  
@MSOCOEX  
08/05/2011 11:22 AM

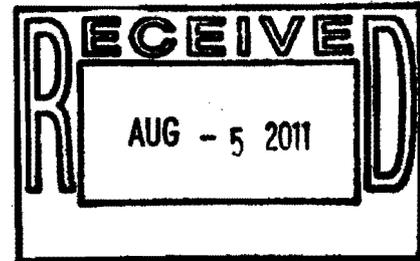
To FOIA Officer/MD/APHIS/USDA  
cc  
bcc

Subject Why he sent it to me. - FW: FOIA Request for IES Documents

**From:** Ryan Merkley [mailto:  
**Sent:** Friday, August 05, 2011 11:04 AM  
**To:** Lau-Lopez, Sophana N (APHIS)  
**Subject:** FOIA Request for IES Documents

August 5, 2011

Sophana N. Lau-Lopez  
FOIA Specialist  
4700 River Road, Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD 20737



Submitted via E-mail (sophana.n.lau\_lopez@aphis.usda.gov)

SEP - 2 2011

Dear Ms. Lau-Lopez:

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) is submitting this 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, with the understanding that some materials are publicly available:

**Period:** October 1, 2007 to present

**Scope:** All Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES) documents—including settlement agreements, 7060 forms, photographs, affidavits, and mail and e-mail correspondence—regarding the following research facilities:

- Brown University (reg. no. 15-R-0003)
- Dartmouth College (reg. no. 12-R-0001)
- Princeton University (reg. no. 22-R-0022)

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>[3]</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,

Ryan Merkley  
Associate Director of Research Policy

---

<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).