



I. Steps Taken to Apply the Presumption of Openness

1. On May 29, 2009, the Department's FOIA Appeals Office issued guidance to all Departmental Bureau/Office FOIA Officers explaining the need for them to prepare statements that explain the harm that is likely to result from the disclosure of the withheld information that is the subject of the appeal. The FOIA Appeals Office also provided them with a copy of Attorney General Holder's March 19, 2009 Memorandum concerning the FOIA.

2. The FOIA Appeals Office has not discretionarily released any documents in connection with the processing of FOIA appeals.

II. Steps Taken to Ensure an Effective System for Responding to Requests

The FOIA Appeals Office has sufficient IT support in processing appeals.

III. Steps Taken to Increase Proactive Disclosures

Not Applicable

IV. Steps Taken to Greater Utilize Technology

1. Not Applicable
2. Not Applicable
3. Not Applicable
4. Not Applicable
5. Not Applicable
6. Not Applicable
7. Not Applicable
8. Not Applicable



DOI FOIA Appeals Office

Department of the Interior

Chief FOIA Officer Report to the Attorney General

V. Steps Taken to Reduce Backlogs and Improve Timeliness in Responding to Requests

1. The backlog of 437 administrative appeals pending in the FOIA Appeals Office at the end of FY09 is a decrease from the 537 administrative appeals that were pending at the end of FY08. In FY09, the oldest administrative appeal pending in the backlog is dated 12/5/2003. In FY08, the oldest administrative appeal pending in the backlog was dated 6/2/1998.

2. Not Applicable

3. The FOIA Appeals Office is in the process of hiring additional contractors to assist in the processing of administrative appeals.