



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333
April 17, 2023

Margery Thorp
Via email: maggie@margerymthorp.com

Dear Ms. Thorp:

This letter is regarding your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of December 6, 2022, assigned #HQ-REF-23-00004.

We located 1438 pages of responsive records (784 pages released in full or part; 650 pages withheld in full). After a careful review of these pages, some information was withheld from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552 Exemptions b(4) and b(5). The foreseeable harm standard was considered when applying these redactions. The records can be viewed and downloaded at the link below:

<https://centersfordiseasecontrol.sharefile.com/d-sa6cdb04fbfef4f579490cc942fe74945>

EXEMPTION 4

Exemption 4 protects trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from an entity that is privileged or confidential. We have determined that the information withheld is customarily and actually kept private and confidential by the submitter of the information (ACOG).

EXEMPTION 5

Exemption 5 protects inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. Exemption 5 therefore incorporates the privileges that protect materials from discovery in litigation, including the deliberative process, attorney work-product, and attorney-client privileges. Information withheld under this exemption was protected under the deliberative process privilege. The deliberative process privilege protects the decision-making process of government agencies. The deliberative process privilege protects materials that are both predecisional and deliberative. The materials that have been withheld under the deliberative process privilege of Exemption 5 are both predecisional and deliberative, and do not contain or represent formal or informal agency policies or decisions. Examples of information withheld include technical reviews of proposal information.

Four (4) pages contain information belonging to the Department of Health and Human Services and have been referred to them for review and direct response to you. You can follow up regarding the status of your request at the following contact information:

FOIArequest@hhs.gov

[Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#) Office of the Secretary
Freedom of Information Act Office
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 729H
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
Phone: 202-690-7453

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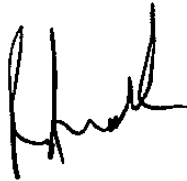
Fax: 202-690-8320

FOIA Officer: Arianne Perkins (Acting)

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6246 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, via the online portal at <https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/App/Index.aspx>. Your appeal must be electronically transmitted by August 24, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Andoh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Roger Andoh
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Operating Officer
(770) 488-6399
Fax: (404) 235-1852