

§9.14

(f) Those requesters searching for records about themselves will be treated under the Privacy Act of 1974 and will only be charged for reproduction costs.

(g) A requester may not file multiple requests solely in order to avoid payment of fees. When the agency reasonably believes that a requester is attempting to separate a request into a series of requests for the purpose of evading the assessment of fees, the agency may aggregate any such requests and charge accordingly.

[52 FR 31398, Aug. 20, 1987; 53 FR 16256, May 6, 1988]

§9.14 Current index.

(a) The Commission maintains and will make available for public inspection and copying a current index of the agency's opinions, policy statements, administrative staff manuals, and instructions to staff that affect a member of the public.

(b) The Commission has decided that it is not necessary to publish this index.

(c) On request, the Commission will provide copies of this index to members of the public. The charges for the copies will be no greater than those set out in §9.11.

[44 FR 75309, Dec. 19, 1979. Redesignated at 52 FR 31397, Aug. 20, 1987; 53 FR 16256, May 6, 1988]

§9.15 Annual report.

On or before March 1 of each calendar year, the Panama Canal Commission sends to both Houses of Congress a report of its activities in connection with the Freedom of Information Act during the preceding calendar year. The Freedom of Information Act requires each agency to make this report and to include in it such information as: how many requests were denied and why; how many denials were appealed and the result of those appeals; the name and title of each official who denied a request; and other information showing how the agency administered the Freedom of Information Act during the period covered by the report.

[44 FR 75309, Dec. 19, 1979. Redesignated at 52 FR 31397, Aug. 20, 1987; 53 FR 16256, May 6, 1988]

35 CFR Ch. I (7-1-00 Edition)

§9.16 Predisclosure notification procedures for confidential commercial information.

(a) *In general.* Confidential commercial information provided to the Panama Canal Commission by a submitter shall not be disclosed pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request except in accordance with this section. The following definitions apply:

(1) *Confidential commercial information* means records provided to the Commission by a submitter that arguably contain material exempt from release under Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), because disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause substantial competitive harm.

(2) *Submitter* means any person or entity who provides confidential commercial information to the Commission. The term "submitter" includes, but is not limited to, corporations, state governments, and foreign governments.

(b) *Notice to submitters.* The Panama Canal Commission shall provide a submitter with prompt notice of receipt of a Freedom of Information Act request encompassing its confidential commercial information whenever required in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, and except as provided in paragraph (g) of this section. The written notice shall either describe the exact nature of the information requested or provide copies of the records or portions of records containing the requested information.

(c) *When notice is required.* (1) For confidential commercial information submitted prior to January 1, 1988, the Panama Canal Commission shall provide a submitter with notice of receipt of a FOIA request whenever:

(i) the records are less than 10 years old and the information has been designated by the submitter as confidential commercial information;

(ii) The Panama Canal Commission has reason to believe that disclosure of the information could reasonably result in commercial or financial harm to the submitter; or

(iii) The information is subject to the prior express commitment of confidentiality given by the Commission to the submitter.