

(2) Arrange with the FOIA Officer an alternative time frame for processing the request.

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§ 1631.9 Responses—form and content.

(a) When a requested record has been identified and is available, the FOIA officer shall notify the person making the request as to where and when the record is available for inspection or that copies will be made available. The notification shall also advise the person making the request of any fees assessed under §1631.13 of this part.

(b) A denial or partial denial of a request for a record shall be in writing signed by the FOIA Officer and shall include:

(1) The name and title of the person making the determination;

(2) A statement of fees assessed, if any; and

(3) A reference to the specific exemption under the FOIA authorizing the withholding of the record, and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld; or

(4) If appropriate, a statement that, after diligent effort, the requested records have not been found or have not been adequately examined during the time allowed by §1631.8, and that the denial will be reconsidered as soon as the search or examination is complete; and

(5) A statement that the denial may be appealed to the General Counsel within 30 calendar days of receipt of the denial or partial denial.

(c) If, after diligent effort, existing requested records have not been found, or are known to have been destroyed or otherwise disposed of, the FOIA Officer shall so notify the requester.

§ 1631.10 Appeals to the General Counsel from initial denials.

(a) When the FOIA Officer has denied a request for expedited processing or a request for records, in whole or in part, the person making the request may, within 30 calendar days of receipt of the response of the FOIA Officer, appeal the denial to the General Counsel. The appeal must be in writing, addressed to the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, 1250 H Street, NW., Washington, DC

20005, and be clearly labeled as a “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.”

(b)(1) The General Counsel will act upon the appeal of a denial of a request for expedited processing within 5 work days of its receipt.

(2) The General Counsel will act upon the appeal of a denial of a request for records within 20 work days of its receipt.

(c) The General Counsel will decide the appeal in writing and mail the decision to the requester.

(d) If the appeal concerns an expedited processing request and the decision is in favor of the person making the request, the General Counsel will order that the request be processed on an expedited basis. If the decision concerning a request for records is in favor of the requester, the General Counsel will order that the subject records be promptly made available to the person making the request.

(e) If the appeal of a request for expedited processing of records is denied, in whole or in part, the General Counsel’s decision will set forth the basis for the decision. If the appeal of a request for records is denied, in whole or in part, the General Counsel’s decision will set forth the exemption relied on and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the records withheld and the reasons for asserting it, if different from the reasons described by the FOIA Officer under §1631.9. The denial of a request for records will state that the person making the request may, if dissatisfied with the decision on appeal, file a civil action in Federal court. (A Federal court does not have jurisdiction to review a denial of a request for expedited processing after the Board has provided a complete response to the request.)

(f) No personal appearance, oral argument, or hearing will ordinarily be permitted in connection with an appeal of a request for expedited processing or an appeal for records.

(g) On appeal of a request concerning records, the General Counsel may reduce any fees previously assessed.

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