

§9.41 Requests for waiver or reduction of fees.

(a)(1) The NRC will collect fees for searching for, reviewing, and duplicating agency records, except as provided in §9.39, unless a requester submits a request in writing for a waiver or reduction of fees. To ensure that there will be no delay in the processing of Freedom of Information Act requests, the request for a waiver or reduction of fees should be included in the initial Freedom of Information Act request letter.

(2) Each request for a waiver or reduction of fees should be addressed to the Office of Information Services, and sent using an appropriate method listed in §9.6.

(b) A person requesting the NRC to waive or reduce search, review, or duplication fees will—

(1) Describe the purpose for which the requester intends to use the requested information;

(2) Explain the extent to which the requester will extract and analyze the substantive content of the agency record;

(3) Describe the nature of the specific activity or research in which the agency records will be used and the specific qualifications the requester possesses to utilize information for the intended use in such a way that it will contribute to public understanding;

(4) Describe the likely impact on the public's understanding of the subject as compared to the level of public understanding of the subject before disclosure;

(5) Describe the size and nature of the public to whose understanding a contribution will be made;

(6) Describe the intended means of dissemination to the general public;

(7) Indicate if public access to information will be provided free of charge or provided for an access fee or publication fee; and

(8) Describe any commercial or private interest the requester or any other party has in the agency records sought.

(c) The NRC will waive or reduce fees, without further specific information from the requester if, from information provided with the request for agency records made under §9.23(b), it

can determine that disclosure of the information in the agency records is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the Federal Government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(d) In making a determination regarding a request for a waiver or reduction of fees, the NRC will consider the following factors:

(1) How the subject of the requested agency records concerns the operations or activities of the Federal Government;

(2) How the disclosure of the information is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of Federal Government operations or activities;

(3) The extent to which, the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the disclosure of the requested agency records; and whether that commercial interest exceeds the public interest in disclosure.

(e) The Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Officer will make an initial determination whether a request for a waiver or reduction of fees meets the requirements of this section. The Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Officer will inform requesters whenever their request for a waiver or reduction of fees is denied and will inform them of their appeal rights under §9.29.

[63 FR 2876, Jan. 20, 1998, as amended at 68 FR 58800, Oct. 10, 2003]

§9.43 Processing requests for a waiver or reduction of fees.

(a) Within 20 working days after receipt of a request for access to agency records for which the NRC agrees to waive fees under §9.39 (a) through (d) or §9.41(c), the NRC will respond to the request as provided in §9.25.

(b) In making a request for a waiver or reduction of fees, a requester shall provide the information required by §9.41(b).

(c) After receipt of a request for the waiver or reduction of fees made in accordance with §9.41, the NRC will either waive or reduce the fees and notify the requester of the NRC's intent to provide the agency records promptly

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or deny the request and provide a statement to the requester explaining why the request does not meet the requirements of § 9.41(b).

(d) As provided in § 9.29, a requester may appeal a denial of a request to waive or reduce fees to the Executive Director for Operations. The appeal must be submitted within 30 calendar days from the date of the notice.

[63 FR 2876, Jan. 20, 1998, as amended at 70 FR 34308, June 14, 2005]

§ 9.45 Annual report to the Attorney General of the United States.

(a) On or before February 1 of each year, the NRC will submit a report covering the preceding fiscal year to the Attorney General of the United States which shall include—

(1) The number of determinations made by the NRC to deny requests for records made to the NRC under this part and the reasons for each determination;

(2) The number of appeals made by persons under § 9.29, the results of the appeals, and the reason for the action taken on each appeal that results in a denial of information;

(3) A complete list of all statutes that the NRC relied upon to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of 5 U.S.C. 552, a description of whether a court has upheld the decision of the NRC to withhold information under each such statute, and a concise description of the scope of any information withheld;

(4) The number of requests for records pending before the NRC as of September 30 of the preceding year, and the median number of days that such requests had been pending before the agency as of that date;

(5) The number of requests for records received by the NRC and the number of requests that the NRC processed;

(6) The median number of days taken to process different types of requests;

(7) The total amount of fees collected by the NRC for processing requests;

(8) The number of full-time staff of the NRC devoted to processing requests under the FOIA and the total amount expended for processing these requests.

(b) The NRC will make a copy of the most recent report available to the

public at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov>.

[63 FR 2876, Jan. 20, 1998; 63 FR 12988, Mar. 17, 1998, as amended at 64 FR 48951, Sept. 9, 1999]

Subpart B—Privacy Act Regulations

SOURCE: 40 FR 44484, Sept. 26, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

§ 9.50 Scope of subpart.

This subpart implements the provisions of section 3 of the Privacy Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-579, 5 U.S.C. 552a, with respect to (a) the procedures by which individuals may determine the existence of, seek access to and request correction of NRC records concerning themselves, and (b) the requirements applicable to NRC personnel with respect to the use and dissemination of such records. The regulations in this subpart apply to all records which are retrievable from a system of records under the control of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the use of an individual's name or of an identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to such individual. Except where specifically provided otherwise, this subpart applies to all NRC records maintained on individuals whether they predate or postdate September 27, 1975.

§ 9.51 Definitions.

As used in this subpart:

(a) *Individual* means a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(b) The term *maintain* includes maintain, collect, use or disseminate.

(c) *Record* means any item, collection or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by the NRC, including, but not limited to, his education, financial transactions, medical history, employment history or criminal history, and that contains the individual's name, or the identifying number, symbol or other identifying particular assigned to the individual, such as a finger or voice print or a photograph.

(d) *System manager* means the NRC official responsible for maintaining a system of records.