

§ 1206.703

reduction is not warranted under the statute.

(c) In determining whether disclosure is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, the following considerations shall be applied:

(1) Whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government";

(2) Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities;

(3) Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to "public understanding"; and

(4) Whether the disclosure is likely to contribute "significantly" to public understanding of government operations or activities.

(d) In determining whether disclosure of the information "is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester," the following consideration shall be applied:

(1) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure; and if so,

(2) Whether the magnitude of the identified commercial interest of the requester is sufficiently large, in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is "primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."

§ 1206.703 Aggregation of requests.

A requester may not file multiple requests at the same time, each seeking portions of a document or documents, solely in order to avoid payment of fees. When NASA has reason to believe that a requester or a group of requesters acting in concert, is attempting to break a request down into a series of requests for the purpose of evading the assessment of fees, NASA will aggregate any such requests and charge accordingly. NASA will consider that multiple requests made within a 30-day period were so intended, unless there is evidence to the contrary. Where the relevant time period exceeds 30 days, NASA will not assume such a motive unless there is evidence to the con-

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trary. In no case will NASA aggregate multiple requests on unrelated subjects from one requester.

§ 1206.704 Advance payments.

(a) NASA will not require a requester to make an advance payment, i.e., payment before work is commenced or continued on a request, unless:

(1) NASA estimates or determines that the allowable charges are likely to exceed \$250. NASA will notify the requester of the likely cost and obtain satisfactory assurance of full payment where the requester has a history of prompt payment of FOIA fees, or require an advance payment of an amount up to the full estimated charges in the case of requesters with no history of payment; or

(2) A requester has previously failed to pay a fee in a timely fashion (within 30 days of billing), then NASA may require the requester to pay the full amount owed plus any applicable interest as provided below (see § 1206.706(a)), or demonstrate that he/she has, in fact, paid the fee, and to make an advance payment of the full amount of the estimated fee before the Agency begins to process a new request or a pending request from that requester.

(b) When NASA acts under paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section, the administrative time limits will begin only after NASA has received the fee payments described in paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 1206.705 Form of payment.

Payment shall be made by check or money order payable to the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration" and sent per instructions in the initial determination.

§ 1206.706 Nonpayment of fees.

(a) Interest to be charged. Requesters are advised that should they fail to pay the fees assessed, they may be charged interest on the amount billed starting on the 31st day following the day on which the billing was sent. Interest will be at the rate prescribed in section 3717 of Title 31 U.S.C.

(b) Applicability of Debt Collection Act of 1982 (Pub. L. 97-365). Requesters are advised that if full payment is not received within 60 days after the billing

was sent, the procedures of the Debt Collection Act may be invoked (14 CFR 1261.407–1261.409). These procedures include three written demand letters at not more than 30-day intervals, disclosure to a consumer reporting agency, and the use of a collection agency, where appropriate.

Subpart 8—Failure To Release Records to the Public

§ 1206.800 Failure to release records to the public.

(a) Except to the extent that a person has actual and timely notice of the terms thereof, a person may not in any manner be required to resort to, or be adversely affected by, a matter required to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER under § 1206.200(a) and not so published.

(b) A final order, opinion, statement of policy, interpretation, or staff manual or instruction that affects a member of the public may be relied upon, used, or cited as precedent by NASA against any member of the public only if it has been indexed and either made available or published as provided by § 1206.200(b) or if the member of the public has actual and timely notice of the terms thereof.

(c) Failure to make available an Agency record required to be made available under this part could provide the jurisdictional basis for a suit against NASA under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(4) (B) through (G), which provides as follows:

(B) On complaint, the District Court of the United States in the district in which the complainant resides, or has his principal place of business, or in which the Agency records are situated, or in the District of Columbia, has jurisdiction to enjoin the Agency from withholding Agency records and to order the production of any Agency records improperly withheld from the complainant. In such a case the court shall determine the matter de novo, and may examine the contents of such Agency records in camera to determine whether such records or any part thereof shall be withheld under any of the exemptions set forth in subsection (b) of this section, and the burden is on the Agency to sustain its action.

(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the defendant shall serve an answer or otherwise plead to any complaint made under this subsection within 30 days after

service upon the defendant of the pleading in which such complaint is made, unless the court otherwise directs for good cause shown.

[(D) Repealed. Pub. L. 98-620, Title IV, 402(2), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3335, 3375.]

(E) The court may assess against the United States reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in any case under this section in which the complainant has substantially prevailed.

(F) Whenever the court orders the production of any Agency records improperly withheld from the complainant and assesses against the United States reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs, and the court additionally issues a written finding that the circumstances surrounding the withholding raise questions whether Agency personnel acted arbitrarily or capriciously with respect to the withholding, the Special Counsel shall promptly initiate a proceeding to determine whether disciplinary action is warranted against the officer or employee who was primarily responsible for the withholding. The Special Counsel, after investigation and consideration of the evidence submitted, shall submit his findings and recommendations to the administrative authority of the Agency concerned and shall send copies of the findings and recommendations to the officer or employee or his representative. The administrative authority shall take the corrective action that the Special Counsel recommends.

(G) In the event of noncompliance with the order of the court, the district court may punish for contempt the responsible employee, and in the case of a uniformed service, the responsible member.

Subpart 9—Annual Report

§ 1206.900 Requirements for annual report.

On or before February 1 of each year, NASA shall submit a report covering the preceding fiscal year to the Department of Justice.

PART 1207—STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Subpart A—General Provisions

Sec.

1207.101 Cross-references to ethical conduct, financial disclosure, and other applicable regulations.

1207.102 Waiver of prohibition in 18 U.S.C. 208.

1207.103 Designations of responsible officials.