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**Form submission from: FOIA Request Form**

1 message

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**Lukas Ross** <lross@foe.org>

Tue, Nov 3, 2015 at 10:27 AM

Reply-To: lross@foe.org

To: os\_foia@ios.doi.gov

Submitted on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 - 10:27am

Submitted by anonymous user: [10.156.8.131]

Submitted values are:

Your Name: Lukas Ross

Street Address: 1101 15th Street NW, 11th Floor

City: Washington DC

State or Country: District Of Columbia

Zip or Postal Code: 20005

Address Type: Business

Daytime Phone Number: 8457415639

Fax Number:

Your Email Address: lross@foe.org

Your Organization: Friends of the Earth

Are you filing the request on behalf of another party? Yes

If so, who are you filing the request on behalf of? Friends of the Earth US

Contact Information Certification: I certify that the above statement(s) concerning who I am filing the request on behalf of are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. If I want to receive greater access to records about a person I represent, I will submit proof that the person consents to the release of the records to me, as discussed in 43 C.F.R. § 2.9.

Bureau/Office: Office of the Secretary (OS)

Relevant park, refuge, site or other location:

Request Description:

Dear Ms. Julka:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and Department of the Interior regulations, 43

C.F.R. Part 2, Friends of the Earth is requesting the following records pertaining to offshore leases issued under the Deepwater Royalty Relief Act (DWRRA) of 1995:

- A full list of all active leases issued between 1996 and 2000 subject to royalty relief under Section 304 of the DWRRA, including current operator, current lessee(s), lease number, sale number, lease effective date, lease status, area code, block number, and depth. Please also include any previous changes to operator and lessee ownership.
- A tally of the total leases issued between 1996 and 2000 eligible for royalty relief under Section 304 of the DWRRA, broken down by their current status (i.e. total numbers for terminated, expired, non-producing, producing or producible, and relinquished leases).
- The most current estimates for revenue lost from royalty-free oil and gas leases issued between 1996 and 2000 under Section 304 of the DWRRA, presented both as per year company totals and lifetime company totals for all years from 1996 through 2014. Please ensure that this lost revenue includes refunds returned to companies based on the final decision in *Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Corp. vs. Allred*.
- The most current volumetric totals for royalty-free oil and gas from leases issued between 1996 and 2000 under Section 304 of the DWRRA, presented both as per year company totals and lifetime company totals, from 1996 through 2014. Please ensure that these volumes reflect the total amount of royalty-free oil and gas based on the final ruling in *Kerr-McGee*.
- Yearly totals for all oil and gas produced under eligible Section 304 DWRRA act leases as a percentage of the total oil and gas produced in the Gulf of Mexico for all years from 1996 through 2014.
- Yearly totals for all non-royalty bearing oil and gas produced in the Gulf of Mexico (including but not limited to DWRRA) as a percentage of the total oil and gas produced in the Gulf of Mexico for all years from 1996 through 2014.
- A full list of all eligible DWRRA leases that crossed the volumetric royalty threshold under Section 304 and became subject to royalties, as well as their depth. Please distinguish between leases that are no longer producing that crossed the volumetric threshold and leases that continue to produce.
- Following the ruling of *Kerr-McGee*, the price thresholds for royalties under DWRRA leases from 1996, 1997, and 2000 were overturned, requiring the Department of the Interior to provide to refund the royalty payments of many producers. Please provide the amount of the refunds provided and to which companies.
- The most recent projections held by the Department of the Interior for the total future revenue lost from the remaining production under eligible DWRRA leases issued between 1996 and 2000.
- Although nullified by the final ruling in *Kerr-McGee*, a number of companies had agreed independently to

accept price thresholds on eligible DWRRA leases. Please provide a list of which companies entered into these agreements.

Desired Format of Disclosure: Electronic format via email

Select the applicable reason why you are requesting expedited processing: There is an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal government activity and the request is made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information.

Expedited Processing Justification: Friends of the Earth would like to request the expedited processing of this request under 43 C.F.R. § 2.20. Once again the country is facing a sustained period of low oil prices, an environment that could once again contribute to industry requests for royalty relief. As these discussions continue, the records outlined in this request are important materials for policy and educational purposes. The Department of Interior acting quickly to make these records available could contribute to these discussions and thereby contribute to the public good.

Expedited Processing Certification: I certify that the above statement(s) concerning expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Please select the appropriate statement: I am requesting a waiver or reduction of fees.

I agree to pay fees up to this particular amount:

In order to assist you in determining my requester category to assess fees, you should know that I am: affiliated with an educational or noncommercial scientific institution and this request is made for a scholarly or scientific purpose and not for commercial use

News Media/Educational or Noncommercial Scientific Institution Affiliation: Friends of Earth US

Check the boxes to the right to confirm that you meet the Department's fee waiver criteria:

Detailed Fee Waiver Justification: Friends of the Earth is a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. By definition we have no commercial interest in any of the data requested. Because the records sought by Friends of the Earth will be used to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the Department of the Interior, we requests a waiver of fees pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 2.19(b)(1).

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.doi.gov/node/11498/submission/709>