

2015 Chief FOIA Officer Report for the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)

The RRB submits this report for 2015 in response to the request in the United States Department of Justice Office of Information Policy FOIA Post, "*Guidelines for 2015 Chief FOIA Officer Reports.*" The report has been prepared by Karl T. Blank, General Counsel/Chief FOIA Officer, RRB.

Section I: Steps Taken to Apply the Presumption of Openness

The guiding principle underlying the President's FOIA Memorandum and the Attorney General's FOIA Guidelines is the presumption of openness.

Describe the steps your agency has taken to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied to all decisions involving the FOIA. To do so, you should answer the questions listed below and then include any additional information you would like to describe how your agency is working to apply the presumption of openness.

FOIA Training:

1. Did your FOIA professionals or the personnel at your agency who have FOIA responsibilities attend any FOIA training or conference during the reporting period such as that provided by the Department of Justice?

Yes. The RRB is a small, independent agency in the Executive Branch of the Federal government. As the RRB's General Counsel/Chief FOIA Officer, I am responsible for the RRB's overall FOIA program. I have made certain that all FOIA staff are properly trained concerning the President's FOIA memorandum and the Attorney General's FOIA guidelines and are responsible in carrying out those responsibilities as they respond to all FOIA requests. During this reporting period two General Attorney's on my staff attended a two and a half day "FOIA and Privacy Act Workshop" provided by the American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP) in Chicago, Illinois.

2. Provide an estimate of the percentage of your FOIA professionals and staff with FOIA responsibilities who attended substantive FOIA training during this reporting period.

67 percent of the RRB's FOIA staff attended substantive training in FY 2014.

3. In the 2014 Chief FOIA Officer Report Guidelines, OIP asked agencies to provide a plan for ensuring that core, substantive FOIA training is offered to all your agency FOIA professionals at least once a year. Please provide the status of your agency's implementation of this plan.

We continue to monitor our FOIA training opportunities annually and provide for the necessary training as required. FOIA personnel are advised of training opportunities conducted by the Department of Justice.

Discretionary Releases:

4. Does your agency have a distinct process or system in place to review records for discretionary release?

Yes. FOIA staff review all records that are responsive to a particular FOIA request. When there is a possibility of making a discretionary release, they consult with the agency's General Counsel/Chief FOIA Officer to determine that all records that are withheld under an exemption are reviewed for discretionary release. We make it a policy that, whenever possible, all responsive records that could technically be withheld should be reviewed a second time for discretionary release.

5. During the reporting period, did your agency make any discretionary releases of information?

The number of full grants to requests has continued to increase since FY 2007 to the present, i.e., from 34 in FY 2007 to 117 in FY 2014. In FY 2008, the agency released 48 full grants and 5 partial grants. In FY 2009, the agency released 55 full grants and 15 partial grants. In FY 2010, the agency released 62 full grants and 4 partial grants. In FY 2011, the agency released 77 full grants and 3 partial grants. In 2012, the agency released 68 full grants and 7 partial grants. In 2013, the agency released 67 full grants and 7 partial grants. In FY 2014, the agency released 117 full grants and 1 partial grant. The RRB did make discretionary releases during FY 2014. However, due to the nature of records requested, as well as the small number of FOIA requests that are received by the agency,

only a small number were made. However, the RRB makes it a policy to make discretionary releases whenever possible.

6. What exemption(s) would have covered the material released as a matter of discretion?

Generally, when there is a possibility of a discretionary release being made by the RRB, exemption (b)(5) applies.

7. Provide a narrative description, as well as some specific examples, of the types of information that your agency released as a matter of discretion during the reporting year.

An example of a discretionary release by the RRB last year was release of certain travel records for the RRB's headquarters and field office locations.

8. If your agency was not able to make any discretionary releases of information, please explain why.

Not applicable (N/A).

Other Initiatives:

9. If there are any other initiatives undertaken by your agency to ensure that the presumption of openness is being applied, please describe them here.

FOIA staff review all records that are responsive to a particular FOIA request. When there is a possibility of making a discretionary release, they consult with the agency's General Counsel/ Chief FOIA Officer.

Section II: Steps Taken to Ensure that Your Agency Has an Effective System in Place for Responding to Requests

As the Attorney General emphasized in his FOIA Guidelines, "[a]pplication of the proper disclosure standard is only one part of ensuring transparency. Open government requires not just a presumption of disclosure, but also an effective system for responding to FOIA requests." It is essential that agencies effectively manage their FOIA program.

This section should include a discussion of how your agency has addressed the key roles played by the broad spectrum of agency personnel who work with FOIA professionals in responding to requests, including, in particular, steps taken to ensure that FOIA professionals have sufficient IT support.

Describe here the steps your agency has taken to ensure that its system for responding to requests is effective and efficient. To do so, answer the questions below and then include any additional information that you would *like* to describe how your agency ensures that your FOIA system is efficient and effective.

Processing Procedures:

1. For Fiscal Year 2014, what was the average number of days your agency reported for adjudicating requests for expedited processing? Please see Section VIII.A. of your agency's Fiscal Year 2014 Annual FOIA Report.

Zero (0).

2. If your agency's average number of days to adjudicate requests for expedited processing was above ten calendar days, please describe the steps your agency will take to ensure that requests for expedited processing are adjudicated within ten calendar days or less.

N/A.

Requester Services:

3. Does your agency notify requesters of the mediation services offered by the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration? See OIP Guidance "*Notifying Requesters of the Mediation Services Offered by OGIS*" (July 9, 2010).

Yes.

4. When assessing fees, does your agency provide a breakdown of how FOIA fees were calculated and assessed to the FOIA requester? For example, does your agency explain the amount of fees attributable to search, review, and duplication? See OIP Guidance, "*The Importance of Good Communication with FOIA Requesters 2.0: Improving Both the Means and the Content of Requester Communications*" (Nov. 22, 2013).

Yes. The RRB provides a full itemized breakdown of FOIA fees, including hourly and categorical breakdowns.

5. If estimated fees are particularly high, does your agency provide an explanation for the estimate to the requester? See *id.*

Yes.

Other Initiatives:

6. If there are any other steps your agency has undertaken to ensure that your FOIA system operates efficiently and effectively, such as conducting self-assessments to find greater efficiencies, improving search processes, eliminating redundancy, etc., please describe them here.

We routinely review our entire FOIA processing system to identify any improvements and efficiencies which can be made.

Section III: Steps Taken to Increase Proactive Disclosures

Both the President and Attorney General focused on the need for agencies to work proactively to post information online without waiting for individual requests to be received.

Describe here the steps your agency has taken both to increase the amount of material that is available on your agency website, and the usability of such information, including providing examples of proactive disclosures that have been made during this past reporting period. In doing so, answer the questions listed below and describe any additional steps taken by your agency to make and improve proactive disclosures of information.

Posting Material:

1. Does your agency have a distinct process or system in place to identify records for proactive disclosure. If so, please describe your agency's process or system.

The RRB annually updates its website to include current actuarial, statistical, and financial information concerning active and retired railroad employees.

2. Does your process or system involve any collaboration with agency staff outside the FOIA office? If so, describe this interaction.

We routinely continue to analyze and improve our release of "frequently requested" records consulting with agency administration, program, and operations bureaus with an emphasis on routine/recurring requests and website content.

3. Describe your agency's process or system for identifying "frequently requested" records that should be posted online.

See question 2, supra.

4. Provide examples of material that your agency has proactively disclosed during the past reporting year, including links to the posted material.

We continue to monitor FOIA webpage content to make sure it remains timely and consistent with current law. FOIA staff have the responsibility and authority to update the RRB website as necessary. The website offers

access to copies of the agency's procedure manuals, final decisions of the three-member Board which heads the agency, rulings of the Board and legal opinions. Other information is available to the public without filing a FOIA request in the Federal Register and the RRB Group Information Locator System (GILS) website. An example of additional material provided since the issuance of the new FOIA Guidelines include a more comprehensive list of the agency's procedural manuals. Additionally, five data sets of statistical information have been added to the RRB's Open Government Initiative located at <http://www.rrb.gov/open/default.asp>.

High-Value Data Sets

The RRB identified and published online in an open format five high-value data sets and registered those data sets via Data.gov. Going forward, the RRB will consider existing published data for conversion to open format for publication to Data.gov.

High Value Information and Data Set Inventory

The RRB High-Value Information and Data Set Inventory details the underlying data sets that are in an open format and accessible directly via Data.gov.

High-Value Information and Data Set Inventory

Information/Data Set Name	Description	URL
Active Employees and Railroad Retirement Act Beneficiaries by State, 2008	A breakdown of Active Employees and Railroad Retirement Act Beneficiaries by State	http://www.data.gov/details/1331
Longevity of Railroad Retirement Beneficiaries	Calculations of life expectancies of Railroad Retirement beneficiaries.	http://www.data.gov/details/1332
Railroad Retirement Act Annuitants and Active Railroad Employees by	A breakdown of Railroad Retirement Act Annuitants and Active Railroad	http://www.data.gov/details/1330

Congressional District	Employees by Congressional District.	
Total Number of Railroad Employees by State and Last Railroad Employer, 2007	A breakdown of Railroad employees by State and Last Railroad Employer.	http://www.data.gov/details/455
Total Railroad Employment by State and County, 2007	A breakdown of Railroad employees by State and County.	http://www.data.gov/details/456

Open Government Webpage

The RRB's Open Government Webpage (www.rrb.gov/open) serves as the gateway for agency activities related to the Open Government Directive. The site allows the public to provide input about the agency's Open Government Plan, give feedback regarding the quality of published information, and provide input about what information should be prioritized for publication to RRB staff via E-mail.

Response to Public Input

The RRB will respond to public input received on its Open Government Webpage within ten business days.

Freedom of Information Act Report Publishing

The RRB publishes its annual Freedom of Information Act Report in an open format on its Open Government Webpage (www.rrb.gov/open). The RRB does not have a backlog of requests to publish information in accordance with FOIA.

Open Government Initiative Guidance

The RRB will continue to observe guidance on implementing specific Presidential open government initiatives, such as Data.gov, Recovery.gov, and USAspending.gov.

Improve the Quality of Government Information

To improve the quality of government information available to the public, the RRB will ensure that the information conforms to OMB guidance on information quality and that adequate systems and processes are in place within the RRB to promote such conformity.

Designation of a Data Official

The RRB designated the Director of Administration to be accountable for the quality and objectivity of, and internal controls over, the Federal spending information publicly disseminated through such public venues as USAspending.gov or other similar websites.

Initiate Plan for Quarterly Data Information Quality Improvement

The RRB awaits guidance on the longer-term comprehensive strategy of the Deputy Director for Management at OMB for Federal spending transparency, including the Federal Funding Accountability Transparency Act and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. The RRB designates the Director of Administration to respond to the OMB guidance for transparency in Federal spending.

Create and Institutionalize a Culture of Open Government

To create a sustained level of openness and accountability, the RRB will strive to incorporate the values of transparency, participation, and collaboration into the ongoing work of the agency.

Open Government Plan

The RRB's Open Government plan describes how the RRB embraces transparency and integrates public participation and collaboration into its activities and can be found at our Open Government Webpage (www.rrb.gov/open). The plan will be updated every two years.

Incentive-Based Strategies

The RRB has designated the Director of Administration to review the findings of the Deputy Director for Management at OMB about the use of challenges, prizes, and other incentive-backed strategies to find innovative or cost-effective solutions to improve open government.

Create an Enabling Policy Framework for Open Government

Emerging technologies open new forms of communication between a government and the people. It is important that policies evolve to realize the potential of technology for open government.

Clarifying Guidance and Proposed Revisions

The RRB will observe guidance applicable to small agencies, from the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), in consultation with the Federal Chief Information Officer and the Federal Chief Technology Officer, to promote greater openness in government.

Transparency

The RRB's long history of transparency is evident by the extensive amount of information frequently published on its website (www.rrb.gov). To uphold and advance this strong commitment to transparency in the future, the RRB will continue to publish information in support of its mission to administer retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs for railway workers and their families under the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

Agency Plans, Management and Reports

The RRB Strategic Plan details the RRB's long and distinguished history of excellent customer service and the continuation of that tradition by calling for the attainment and maintenance of high levels of accuracy and timeliness in paying retirement, survivor, unemployment and sickness insurance benefits. The Agency Management and Reports webpage provides information on the RRB's structure, responsibilities to the public, and communication methods. The RRB Annual Report provides information on agency operations that are distributed to officials of railway management and labor, members of Congress, officials of the Federal Government, and requesting libraries

http://www.rrb.gov/general/plan_rpt_inv.asp#fair

http://www.rrb.gov/mep/agency_mgt.asp

http://www.rrb.gov/opa/AnnualRprt/Ann_Rpt_toc.asp

Agency Procedure Manuals

The Agency Procedure Manuals webpage is an index of the chapters in the various manuals used by the RRB in the processing of claims under either the Railroad Retirement or Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts.

http://www.rrb.gov/general/admin_manuals_index.asp

Board Coverage Decisions

Board Coverage Decisions are the determinations of the three-member Board as to the status of various companies or persons with respect to coverage as employers or employees under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts.

http://www.rrb.gov/blaw/bcd/cov_introduction.asp

Congressional Requests

The Congressional Inquiry Section of the RRB's Office of Administration is responsible for responding to all inquiries from congressional offices concerning constituents, benefit claims or applications filed with the agency.

Questions about proposed railroad retirement legislation, the status of pending legislation, or congressional schedules, hearings or committee jurisdiction should be directed to the Office of Legislative Affairs (ola@rrb.gov).

http://www.rrb.gov/opa/rrbcongress_contacts.asp

Federal Register

The Federal Register is the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents. Descriptions of agency organization, procedures for the public to obtain information, statements of agency function, rules of procedure, descriptions of agency forms, substantive rules of general applicability and statements of general policy, and any changes in material required to be published are available through the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

http://www.rrb.gov/irm/fedreg_notices.asp

http://www.rrb.gov/irm/fedreg_regs.asp

Financial, Actuarial and Statistical Data

The RRB Financial, Actuarial and Statistical Data webpage consists of the following sections:

Annual Railroad Retirement Act and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act Data
Budget and Financial Reports: Current and Projected Earnings Limits, Tax Rates and COLA's
Monthly and Quarterly Railroad Retirement Act and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act Data
Performance and Accountability Reports

http://www.rrb.gov/mep/fin_act_stat.asp

Forms and Publications

The Railroad Retirement Handbook provides a comprehensive single source of authoritative information on the development and character of the railroad retirement and railroad unemployment insurance systems. The Benefit Forms and Publications webpage provides information on Unemployment & Sickness Benefits, Retirement & Survivor Benefits, Medicare, Income Tax, Protests and Appeals, and Work/Earnings. The Employer Forms and Publications webpage provides content from the Exhibits Section of the Labor Reporting, Employer Reporting and Sickness Reporting Instructions, and publications in the format of Employer Exchange Newsletters and Office of the Labor Member Questions and Answers.

<http://www.rrb.gov/general/handbook/toc.asp>

http://www.rrb.gov/mep/ben_forms.asp

http://www.rrb.gov/mmo/rail_forms.asp

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

The RRB is required under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to disclose records requested in writing by any person. However, we may withhold information under certain exemptions and exclusions provided by the statute. In addition, the Railroad Retirement Act, the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, and the Privacy Act restrict disclosure of information about individuals.

<http://www.rrb.gov/blaw/foia/foia.asp>

Information Dissemination

In accordance with Section 3506(d) of the Paperwork Reduction Act and Section 515 of Public Law 106-554 the RRB has developed a procedure to allow one to seek and obtain correction of certain information RRB maintains and

disseminates. Procedures to seek correction of information under section 515 do not replace other established procedures for challenges to disseminated information. Challenges to information disseminated in the course of rulemaking should be made through the channels established for that purpose.

<http://www.rrb.gov/bis/section515/introduction.asp>

<http://www.rrb.gov/bis/section515/guidelines.asp>

<http://www.rrb.gov/bis/section515/correct.asp>

IMPAC Credit Card Holders List

The RRB receives frequent requests under the Freedom of Information Act for a list of the IMPAC credit card holders at the agency. In accord with section 4 of the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996 (P.L. 104-231), the RRB posts the list of credit card holders.

<http://www.rrb.gov/general/impac.asp>

News Releases

The RRB News webpage provides access to periodic news releases distributed to editors of railway publications and major newspapers, officials of railway management and labor, and requesting agencies and organizations in and outside of the Federal Government.

http://www.rrb.gov/mep/news_releases.asp

Paperwork Reduction Act

The RRB is essentially compliant with the information dissemination requirements of the PRA.

Privacy Act - Privacy Act Systems of Records

The RRB Privacy Act webpage provides information on one's right to records which the RRB maintains about individuals, including individuals in the railroad industry. The text of all of the RRB's Privacy Act Systems of Records, as published in the Federal Register, are available for study.

http://www.rrb.gov/bis/privacy_act/introduction.asp

http://www.rrb.gov/bis/privacy_act/SORNList.asp

Records Management

The RRB records schedules are in transition. We will post updated RRB records schedules to www.rrb.gov upon completion of all remaining NARA Bulletin 2006-02-related RRB/NARA appraisal work later in FY 2010.

RRBVision

The RRBVision service allows users to view video presentations with accompanying training materials, such as PowerPoint presentations or online screens. Presentations can be viewed in real time or saved for later viewing. These presentations covered instructions in filing for sickness and unemployment benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, filing for retirement benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act, completing a variety of compensation-reporting forms and navigating the Board's Web site.

http://www.rrb.gov/rrbvision/video_library.asp

Many of the records posted on the agency website were created specifically to be made available to the public, such as press releases, reports, and other RRB-produced material. Many of the records online have traditionally been widely disseminated by the agency.

Other Initiatives:

5. If there are any other steps your agency has taken to increase proactive disclosures, please describe them here.

The RRB is currently in the process of digitizing, indexing, and cataloging 258 binders of Legal Opinions maintained in the Board's Office of General Counsel so they are electronically retrievable by Board staff and the public through www.rrb.gov, including attorneys, claimants, railroad employers, etc.

Section IV: Steps Taken to Greater Utilize Technology

A key component of the President's FOIA Memorandum was the direction to "use modern technology to inform citizens about what is known and done by their Government." In addition to using the internet to make proactive disclosures, agencies should also be exploring ways to utilize technology in responding to requests.

Making Material Posted Online More Useful:

1. Beyond posting new material, is your agency taking steps to make posted information more useful to the public, especially to the community of individuals who regularly access your agency's website?

Yes.

2. If yes, please provide examples of such improvements.

See "Spotlight on Success" below.

3. Has your agency encountered challenges that make it difficult to post records you otherwise would like to post?

No.

4. If so, please briefly explain what those challenges are.

N/A.

Other Initiatives:

5. Did your agency successfully post all four quarterly reports for Fiscal Year 2014?

No.

6. If your agency did not successfully post all quarterly reports, with information appearing on FOIA.gov, please explain why and provide your agency's plan for ensuring that such reporting is successful in Fiscal Year 2015.

Due to unexpected delays caused by other agency priorities, specifically pending litigation cases, in conjunction with significant staffing shortages during most of FY 2014, we were unable to comply with the quarterly reporting requirements

7. Do your agency's FOIA professionals use e-mail or other electronic means to communicate with requesters where feasible? See OIP Guidance, "The Importance of Good Communication with FOIA Requesters 2.0: Improving Both the Means and the Content of Requester Communications" (Nov. 22, 2013). If yes, what are the different types of electronic means which are utilized by your agency to communicate with requesters?

Yes. E-mail is utilized to communicate with requesters where feasible. The RRB is not currently using other social media, such as Twitter, Facebook, etc., to communicate with requesters.

8. If your agency does not communicate electronically with requests as a default, are there any limitations or restrictions for the use of such means? If yes, does your agency inform requesters about such limitations? See *id.*

No.

Section V: Steps Taken to Improve Timeliness in Responding to Requests and Reduce Backlogs

The President and the Attorney General have emphasized the importance of improving timeliness in responding to requests. This section addresses both time limits and backlog reduction. Backlog reduction is measured both in terms of numbers of backlogged requests or appeals and by looking at whether agencies closed their ten oldest requests, appeals and consultations. For the figures required in this Section, please use those contained in the specified sections of your agency's 2014 Annual FOIA Report, and where applicable, your agency's 2013 Annual FOIA Report.

1. Does your agency utilize a separate track for simple requests?

No.

2. If so, for your agency overall, for Fiscal Year 2014, was the average number of days to process simple requests twenty working days or fewer?

N/A.

3. Please provide the percentage of requests processed by your agency in Fiscal year 2014 that were placed in your simple track.

Zero (0).

4. If your agency does not track simple requests separately, was the average number of days to process non-expedited requests twenty working days or fewer?

No. The average number of days to process non-expedited requests was 38.58 days.

BACKLOGGED REQUESTS

5. If your agency had a backlog of requests at the close of Fiscal Year 2014, did that backlog decrease as compared with Fiscal Year 2013?

The number of backlogged requests increased from 3 reported in FY 2013 to 9 in FY 2014.

6. If you had a request backlog, please report the percentage of requests that make up the backlog out of the total number of requests received by your agency in Fiscal Year 2014. If your agency did not receive any requests in Fiscal Year 2014 and/or has no request backlog, please answer with "N/A."

The percentage of requests that make up the backlog out of the total number of requests received by the RRB in FY 2014 is 0.06 percent.

BACKLOGGED APPEALS

7. If your agency had a backlog of appeals at the close of Fiscal Year 2014, did that backlog decrease as compared with the backlog reported at the end of Fiscal Year 2013?

No backlog of appeals was reported by the RRB in FY 2013 or FY 2014.

8. If you had an appeal backlog, please report the percentage of appeals that make up the backlog out of the total number of appeals received by your agency in Fiscal Year 2014. If your agency did not receive any appeals in Fiscal Year 2014 and/or has no appeal backlog, please answer "N/A."

N/A.

TEN OLDEST REQUESTS

9. In Fiscal Year 2014, did your agency close the ten oldest requests that were reported pending in your Fiscal Year 2013 Annual FOIA Report?

Yes.

10. If no, please provide the number of these requests your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section VII.E of your Fiscal Year 2013 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than the ten total oldest requests to close, please indicate that.

Three "ten total oldest requests" reported in FY 2013 were closed in FY 2014.

11. Of the requests your agency was able to close from your ten oldest, please indicate how many of these were closed because the request was

withdrawn by the requester. If any were closed because the request was withdrawn, did you provide any interim responses prior to the withdrawal?

N/A.

TEN OLDEST APPEALS

12. In Fiscal Year 2014, did your agency close the ten oldest appeals that were pending in your Fiscal Year 2013 Annual FOIA Report?

Yes. No "ten oldest appeals" were pending at the end of FY 2013.

13. If no, please provide the number of these appeals your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section VII.C(5) of your Fiscal Year 2013 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten total oldest appeals to close, please indicate that.

N/A.

TEN OLDEST CONSULTATIONS

14. In Fiscal Year 2014, did your agency close the ten oldest consultations that were reported pending in your Fiscal Year 2013 Annual FOIA Report?

Yes. No "ten oldest consultations" were pending at the end of FY 2013.

15. If no, please provide the number of these consultations your agency was able to close by the end of the fiscal year, as listed in Section XII.C. of your Fiscal Year 2013 Annual FOIA Report. If you had less than ten oldest consultations to close, please indicate that.

N/A.

16. Briefly explain any obstacles your agency faced in closing its ten oldest requests, appeals, and consultations from Fiscal Year 2013.

N/A.

17. If your agency was unable to close any of its ten oldest requests because you were waiting to hear back from other agencies on consultations you

sent, please provide the date the request was initially received by your agency, the date when your agency sent the consultation, and the date when you last contacted the agency where the consultation was pending.

N/A.

18. If your agency did not close its ten oldest pending requests, appeals, or consultations, please provide a plan describing how your agency intends to close those "ten oldest" requests, appeals, and consultations during Fiscal year 2015.

N/A.

Use of FOIA's Law Enforcement "Exclusions"

In order to increase transparency regarding the use of the FOIA's statutory law enforcement exclusions, which authorize agencies under certain exceptional circumstances to "treat the records as not subject to the requirements of [the FOIA]," 5 U.S.C. § 552(c)(1), (2), (3), please answer the following questions:

1. Did your agency invoke a statutory exclusion during Fiscal Year 2012?

No.

2. If so, what is the total number of times exclusions were invoked?

Not applicable.

Spotlight on Success

RSS Feeds & Email Subscriptions

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a technology that allows organizations to deliver content to a desktop computer or other Internet device. By subscribing to RSS feeds, users can easily stay up-to-date with areas of the RRB's web site that are of interest and provide resultant feedback. RRB feeds consist of headline, brief summary, and a link that leads back to the agency's web site for more information. RSS feeds and email subscriptions are available for content such as Annual RRA & RUIA Data, Annual RRA & RUIA Data, Budget and Financial Reports, Earnings Limits, Tax Rates & COLA's, Monthly & Quarterly RRA & RUIA Data, Office of the Inspector General - Library, Open Government Initiative, Railroad Job Vacancies Reported to the RRB, Recent Updates on the RRB Web Site, and RRBVision Video Presentations.

<http://www.rrb.gov/rss/rss.asp>