



## United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
5522 Research Drive Park  
Baltimore, MD 21228

In Reply Refer To:  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Attention: Freedom of Information Act Officer  
5522 Research Park Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21228

August 28, 2016

Mr. Ethan Barton  
Daily Caller News Foundation  
1050 17th Street NW  
Suite 900  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
[ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org](mailto:ethan@dailycallernewsfoundation.org)

Re: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Tracking #  
USGS-2016-00186

Dear Mr. Barton:

I am responding to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated July 5, 2016, in which you requested copies of the following records:

Copies of a "subsequent review" mentioned in a 2014 inspector general report regarding data manipulation discovered in 2008 at the U.S. Geological Survey Energy Geochemistry Laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado.

Specifically, you requested the Energy Resources Program review into the data manipulation referenced by the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Interior, report number CR-EV-GSV-0003-2014: "A subsequent review of this case by ERP officials, found that inorganic chemical analyses by the laboratory worker incorporated quality practices that did not meet acceptable standards."

I have enclosed one portable document format (PDF) consisting of 55 pages, which are being released to you in their entirety. On July 6, 2016, we approved your request for a fee waiver.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer. You also may seek dispute resolution services from me, as the USGS FOIA Public Liaison. If you have any questions about our response to your request, you may contact me by phone at (443) 498-5521, by electronic mail at [foia@usgs.gov](mailto:foia@usgs.gov), or by mail at 5522 Research Park Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228.

Sincerely,

Brian A. May  
Freedom of Information Act Officer  
FOIA Public Liaison

Enclosure:  
2016-00186 – Combined Records.pdf (55 pages)