



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA,
AND INFORMATION SERVICE

March 17, 2015

Kent Clizbe
20597 Wild Meadow Ct
Ashburn, VA, 20147

Re: Request No. DOC-NOAA-2014-001602

Dear Mr Clizbe,

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request entered into FOIA online on September 7, 2014, for records pertaining to “Temperature Data Record Adjustments: Rationale, Methodology, Discussions--USG employees and others for the NOAA/National Climactic Data Center”. NOAA has determined that the cost for searching for responsive documents will far exceed \$25.00. Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations 15 CFR Part 4.11(e), we are providing you with a fee estimate. The fee estimate is determined in accordance with the uniform fee schedule established in 15 CFR Part 4.11(c) (i) for requesters that fall in the *Fee Category – Commercial Requester*.

The National Environmental Information Center (which includes the former National Climatic Data Center) has access to a subset of the requested records. Very few if any letters, phone logs, memos, and other communications on this subject would be available. Historical internal and external emails are archived, though they are expensive to access and analyze due to unsupported technology.

As data stewardship – including homogeneity adjustments – has been central to NCDC’s mission for decades, determining which records are responsive to this extremely broad request will require significant resources. Responding to this part of the request would require retrieving, reviewing, and packaging many tens of thousands of items in at least 29 years of communications, if they can be located.

For investigating availability of items and code, some from obsolescent systems, evaluating content, and screening for non-responsive, deliberative, or personally identifying information, I estimate the following Federal-equivalent labor classes, durations and costs. The actual personnel, and sources of labor (Federal or contracted), would depend on conditions and workforce options available at the specific project start time.

The following cost estimates are approximate, given the broad nature of the request. We estimate that the cost to search for responsive records will be approximately \$262,000. This estimate is based on approximately 1.9 years of Search and Review time at the actual salary rate of the multiple employees conducting search. The employee’s conducting the search’s salary range from \$24.00 - \$37.00 an hour, plus 16 percent of the employee's salary rate. This estimate does not include the cost of reproducing documents because until the initial search is complete, we have no way to estimate how many documents, if any, would need to be copied.



Another option based on your request is to narrow your scope or update the description of what you are asking for. If you agree to narrow your scope or update your request, please contact me and I will set up a teleconference between you and the lead on this task

NOAA requires that you pay the estimated fee prior to receiving the requested documents pursuant to 15 CFR 4.11(i) (2). Please make your check or money order payable to the "Treasury of the United States," and send it to the NOAA Public Reference Facility (SOU 10000), 1315 East West Highway (SSMC3), Room 9719, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. In compliance with the FOIA regulations, the 20-business-day time frame for completing your FOIA request stops until payment is received. Once your payment and authorization are received, we will continue to process your request.

Please be aware that not all responsive documents are necessarily releasable under the FOIA. If you have any questions about your request or the NOAA's FOIA regulations or procedures, please contact Maria Williams, 301-713-7103 or maria.williams@noaa.gov.

If payment or other communication is not received by March 24, 2015, your FOIA request will be considered "closed."

Sincerely,

Maria S. Williams,