

8. January. 2002

Maureen Rudolph
US Department of Justice
Washington, DC
sent via fax 202-514-4231

Dear Ms. Rudolph,

I write in response to your January 3, 2002 call asking for additional information about our organization in connection to our December 3, 2001 FOIA request. I had thought we had answered all necessary questions in a phone call from your agency two weeks earlier. I am troubled that our basic FOIA request for basic public information has received such resistance in questioning our organization and our intentions to publicly use any information received.

Once again, our December 3, 2001 request was:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. s. 552, I request from the Department of Justice copies of all documents (i.e. notes, official and internal memos, planning documents, all documents received from other agencies, appendices, and all other background materials) relative to the recently issued report sent to me entitled "Revised and Supplemented Report of Investigation by the United States of America Regarding Certain Statements by Charles M. Kittinger" related to the Industrial Excess Landfill in Uniontown, Ohio.

As requested, enclosed please find a copy of a form verifying our federal tax identification number. Also enclosed, as requested, are copies of 26 news articles and letters connected to our involvement in IEL and/or related to information received from previous FOIA requests from 1998 to the present.

Also as requested, here's a summary of how we would use any new FOIA information received. First, we would list significantly new information on our website, www.AFSC.net. We currently have a great deal of information about IEL on that site. Second, we would share information with the community group we have been working with over the past 7 years, Concerned Citizens of Lake Township (CCLT). If you need to confirm our association with that organization, I would be happy to give you the name of the President of that group. They can vouch for our working relationship. Lastly, any significant information would be used to inform the public through the press -- as we have done in the past (see attached articles).

I hope this satisfies your request. I have read that on October 12 of last year, your boss, US Attorney General John Ashcroft circulated a memo urging federal agencies to resist most Freedom of Information Act requests made by American citizens.

Passed in 1974 in the wake of the Watergate scandal, the Freedom of Information Act has been celebrated as one of the greatest democratic reforms of this nation. FOIA allows ordinary citizens to hold the government accountable by requesting and scrutinizing public documents and records. Journalists, newspapers, historians and watchdog groups would never be able to keep the government honest without it. FOIA was a post-Watergate citizen tool, an act that allows us to know what our elected officials do, rather than what they say. It is our national sunshine law, legislation that forces agencies to disclose their public records and documents.

We hope in this instance you will immediately release all information related to the eight month Department of Justice secret investigation of the charges of the former IEL owner-operator that three nuclear bombs were dumped at the IEL. Given the stated commitment by the federal government to disclosing all threats to the safety and security of our nation, disclosing the requested information about whether or not nuclear bombs are buried literally in our backyard should prompt you to comply to our basic request for basic information. To do anything less, as suggested by Attorney General John Ashcroft, is fundamentally undemocratic.

Sincerely,

Gregory D. Coleridge, Director, Economic Justice & Empowerment Program
cc: public