



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: IRTM
Falls Church, VA 22041



IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/FOIA 2022-004848

September 9, 2022

Via email: cbowling@selctn.org

Chelsea Bowling
Southern Environmental Law Center
1033 Demonbreun St. Suite 205
Nashville, TN 37203

REF: FWS-2022-004848

Dear Ms. Bowling:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Headquarters FOIA Office received your request dated July 8, 2022 and assigned tracking number FWS-2022-004848. Please refer to tracking number in communications regarding this request.

You requested the following: *“access to certain records created, received, or reviewed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“FWS”) related to the Ridgeline Expansion Project, an expansion of the existing East Tennessee Natural Gas (“ETNG”) system that Enbridge Inc. has proposed to serve a potential Tennessee Valley Authority gas plant near Kingston, Tennessee. Specifically, we request copies (electronic, if possible) of the following public records that were created, received, or reviewed by FWS:*

Beginning May 1, 2021, until the date of the search for responsive records, any records related to the Ridgeline Expansion Project and related infrastructure. Such records include, but are not limited to:

- 1) all documents related to the meetings between the FWS Tennessee Field Office and ETNG on June 30, 2021 and April 19, 2022;*
- 2) all documents related to a pre-filing letter sent from ETNG to FWS on April 13, 2022 (including the letter itself and any attachments to the letter); and*
- 3) all other communications between FWS and Enbridge, Inc., ETNG, and the Tennessee Valley Authority regarding the Ridgeline Expansion Project, related gas infrastructure, or any proposed Kingston gas plant.*

Potential recordholders include, but are not limited to, staff members of the Tennessee Ecological Services Field Office, such as Daniel Elbert, Nicole Sikula, David Pelren, and Robbie Sykes.

For the purposes of this request, the term “records” includes all written, printed, recorded or electronic: documents, materials, communications, correspondence, emails, memoranda, notations, copies, diagrams, charts, maps, photographs, tables, spreadsheets, formulas, directives, observations, impressions, contracts, letters, messages and mail in the possession or control of FWS or its agents.”

Response

We have completed our search and review of responsive records. We are releasing 292 pages of records in their entirety.

Mediation/Dispute Resolution

If after contacting us as described below, you need further information or assistance with your request, you may wish to seek dispute resolution services from the Department’s FOIA Public Liaison, Natasha Alcantara by email at doifoiapublicliaison@sol.doi.gov.

If you need further information or assistance after contacting the Department’s FOIA Public Liaison, you may wish to seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The 2007 FOIA amendments created the 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
Web: <https://www.archives.gov/ogis>
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.

Conclusion

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. *See* [5 U.S.C. 552\(c\)](#). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

This is our only and final response and closes your request DOI-FWS-2022-004848. If you have any questions about our response to your request, you may contact me by email at Amanda_Crask@fws.gov, or by mail at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; ATTN: FOIA Office; 5275 Leesburg Pike; MS: IRTM; Falls Church, VA 22041.

Sincerely,

Amanda Crask
FWS FOIA Coordinator