Message

From: Ota, Allan [Ota.Allan@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/11/2021 12:33:54 AM
To: Mullin, Claire [Mullin.Claire@epa.gov]; r9records [r9records@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: FOIA search request - suggested key words: ocean dumping; ocean dumping permits; Montrose Chemical Corporation, chlorinated hydrocarbons

Importance: High

Hi, Claire.
Your clarification is very helpful (and thank you!), and I was probably conflating internal (EPA) record searches and FOIA record searches - the previous FOIA for which I was the lead was quite a while ago, so I certainly don't remember those cost details. I have provided assistance as a program for other FOIA leads, so again I would not have been knowledgeable of costs covered by the requester. I re-read the email thread which included a branch chief and to hold off on a formal FOIA search... I appreciate your search as a non-FOIA request.
Thank you!
-Allan

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Allan Ota
Oceanographer | Regional Ocean Dumping Program Coordinator | FAC-COR II
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"Live simply, so that others may simply live." – Saint (Mother) Teresa

From: Mullin, Claire <Mullin.Claire@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>; r9records <r9records@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOIA search request - suggested key words: ocean dumping; ocean dumping permits; Montrose Chemical Corporation, chlorinated hydrocarbons

Hello Allan,

Yes, there are two tasks that are considered billable to the FOIA requester: record searches and redactions. For this afternoon I will bill my time as if I were not responding to a FOIA request.

Best,

Claire Mullin | Circulation Lead
US EPA R9 Regional Records Center | Mullin.Claire@epa.gov | Desk: (415) 972-3196
R9records@epa.gov | (415) 947-8717 | Monday-Friday 8AM – 5PM

From: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:13 PM
To: r9records <r9records@epa.gov>; Mullin, Claire <Mullin.Claire@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOIA search request - suggested key words: ocean dumping; ocean dumping permits; Montrose Chemical Corporation, chlorinated hydrocarbons
Importance: High

Hi, Claire.
Thank you for your assistance with this. I guess it's been a while since I've had to deal with a FOIA; I did not remember that there would be a cost associated with doing the initial search for records. I'm asking this because I expect that there would be no records going back to 1973-1977, based on my previous search going back that far. If there is a cost for the initial search, then I will need to find out if the requestor is willing to cover those costs. I have been instructed to hold off on a search until a meeting on this subject is convened; in any case, please let me know about potential costs and when they are required.

Thank you for your attention to this.
-Allan

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From: Mullin, Claire <Mullin.Claire@epa.gov> **On Behalf Of** r9records
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:02 PM
To: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>
Cc: r9records <r9records@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOIA search request - suggested key words: ocean dumping; ocean dumping permits; Montrose Chemical Corporation, chlorinated hydrocarbons

Before I begin to search for potentially responsive records, please let me know if the FOIA requester will assume costs. Thank you!

Claire Mullin | Circulation Lead
US EPA R9 Regional Records Center | Mullin.Claire@epa.gov | Desk: (415) 972-3196
R9records@epa.gov | (415) 947-8717 | Monday-Friday 8AM – 5PM

From: Mullin, Claire <Mullin.Claire@epa.gov> **On Behalf Of** r9records
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:00 PM
To: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>
Cc: r9records <r9records@epa.gov>; SEMS ReferenceDesk <SEMS_ReferenceDesk@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FOIA search request - suggested key words: ocean dumping; ocean dumping permits; Montrose Chemical Corporation, chlorinated hydrocarbons

Hello Allan, I can assist you with your FOIA request.

Claire Mullin | Circulation Lead
US EPA R9 Regional Records Center | Mullin.Claire@epa.gov | Desk: (415) 972-3196
R9records@epa.gov | (415) 947-8717 | Monday-Friday 8AM – 5PM

From: Ota, Allan <Ota.Allan@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:56 PM
To: SEMS ReferenceDesk <SEMS_ReferenceDesk@epa.gov>
Cc: r9records <r9records@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FOIA search request - suggested key words: ocean dumping; ocean dumping permits; Montrose Chemical Corporation, chlorinated hydrocarbons
Importance: High

I just found out that Amanda no longer works at the records center. Please let me know if I need to send a request for records search (see highlighted below) separately from this email.
-Allan

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From: Ota, Allan
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Potter, Amanda <potter.amanda@epa.gov>
Cc: r9records <r9records@epa.gov>
Subject: FOIA search request - suggested key words: ocean dumping; ocean dumping permits; Montrose Chemical Corporation, chlorinated hydrocarbons
Importance: High

Hi, Amanda.
I received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for records pertaining to ocean dumping of DDT products in Southern California. Specifically, this is a request for copies of correspondence and barge (transport) reports associated with ocean dumping permits that may have been issued by EPA Region 9 to Montrose Chemical Corporation between May 1973 and January 1977. I am not aware of any program records in our immediate office files and, based on the dates, I'm not convinced that any such records would still be in our Regional Archives (where you sit). I'm guessing these older records, if they still exist, would be at the Federal Archives (in San Bruno; still there?).

As such, I am requesting a search for any records that would match the description in this FOIA request. I have provided some key words in the subject line of this email, and I have attached a copy of the FOIA request which you can review and add any other key words you determine to improve the search request.

I will be very interested to find out if any records dating back to 1973-1977 are still there. As I recall, a previous request for records going back that far did not yield anything from the retrieved box(es). I started at EPA Region 9 in late 1989 and I was not aware of any such activities or permits, and unless these records were deemed important enough to avoid destruction, I would expect these not to exist after 10 years of storage...

Thank you for your attention to this.
-Allan

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Amanda Potter | Records Information Specialist | U.S. EPA Region 9 Regional Records Center | (415) 947-8717

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To request or submit records, please contact
r9records@epa.gov or (415) 947-8717