



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

January 17, 2017

Melanie Benesh
Staff Attorney
Environment Working Group
1436 U. St. NW, Ste. 100
Washington, DC 20009

Sent via electronic mail

Re: Open Records Act request, our internal number 17 ORA 12.

Dear Ms. Benesh,

This letter is to acknowledge your email, dated January 12, 2017, in which you make an Open Records Act request, regarding the following:

records created by, received by, under the authority of, or coming into the custody, control or possession of the Oklahoma Office of Attorney General, regarding potential, ongoing, or completed environmental enforcement actions from January 01, 1995-present, including communications about such actions with other agencies, including, but not limited to:

- The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
- The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
- The Oklahoma Water Resources Board
- The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- The Oklahoma Department of Mines
- The Oklahoma Corporation Commission

Oklahoma's Open Records Act, 51 O.S.2011 & Supp.2016, §§ 24A.1 – 24A.30, requires an agency to provide "prompt, reasonable access" to records while employing reasonable procedures to protect the integrity and organization of the records and to prevent excessive disruption of the agency's essential functions. 51 O.S.Supp.2016, § 24A.5(5).

Currently, the Attorney General's Office is working on a considerable number of requests from media, law firms, public interest groups, and others, many of which request thousands of pages of records. Further, these requests are at various stages of the review process, i.e., intake, record search, legal review, and redaction of confidential information captured by search, etc. We process these requests in the order in which they are received, ensuring fairness to all who make requests. We will respond as quickly as possible and will notify you once the search is complete.

Finally, please be advised that many exemptions and exceptions exist under Oklahoma's Open Records Act. For example, one such exception specifically permits us to maintain the confidentiality of our litigation files. *Id.* § 24A.12. If your search implicates any of these exemptions or exceptions, it may take additional time to assemble, review, and fulfill your records request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Greenwalt".

Sarah A. Greenwalt
GENERAL COUNSEL TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL