



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

April 8, 2025

Ms. Elizabeth L. Lewis  
Eubanks & Associates, PLLC  
1629 K Street NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20006  
lizzie@eubankslegal.comoia@propertyofthepeople.org

Re: FOIA Request DOC-NOAA-2025-000582

Dear Ms. Lewis,

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request DOC-NOAA-2025-000582 dated March 4, 2025.

You requested:

***Pursuant to FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3), PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) requests information concerning NOAA's interactions with Elon Musk, DOGE and its operatives, and the nominated political appointees to NOAA leadership positions. Specifically, PEER requests the following:***

- ***From January 1, 2024 through the date the records search is made for this request, any and all records mentioning, discussing, addressing, explaining, describing, referring to, containing, dealing with, or otherwise citing to, either in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, the application of FOIA to conversations, meetings, interactions, deliberations and/or discussions about the following individuals and/or entities:***
  - ***Elon Musk***
  - ***Nikhil Rajpal***
  - ***Howard Lutnick***
  - ***Neil Jacobs***
  - ***Taylor Jordan***
  - ***The Department of Government Efficiency ("DOGE")***
  - ***SpaceX***
  - ***Starlink***
  - ***xAI***
  - ***Tesla***
  - ***Musk Foundation***
  - ***Seadrill***
  - ***Transocean***
  - ***Panasonic Avionics (including Panasonic Weather Solutions)***
  - ***Satellogic, Inc.***

- *From January 1, 2024 through the date the records search is made for this request, any communications, meeting materials, reports, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other records generated or received by NESDIS that mention, discuss, address, explain, describe, refer to, contain, deal with, otherwise cite to, or include as the recipient(s) or sender, either in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, the following entities and/or individuals:*
  - *Elon Musk*
  - *Nikhil Rajpal*
  - *Howard Lutnick*
  - *Neil Jacobs*
  - *Taylor Jordan*
  - *The Department of Government Efficiency (“DOGE”)*
  - *SpaceX*
  - *Starlink*
  - *xAI*
  - *Tesla*
  - *Musk Foundation*
  - *Seadrill*
  - *Transocean*
  - *Panasonic Avionics (including Panasonic Weather Solutions)*
  - *Satelloptic, Inc.*
  
- *From January 1, 2024 through the date the records search is made for this request, any communications, meeting materials, reports, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other records generated or received by NESDIS that were sent to, received from, or shared with the corporations, partnerships, or other business associations (including parent companies and subsidiaries, whether wholly or partly owned) in which the following individuals currently have, or previously had, financial interests:*
  - *Elon Musk*
  - *Nikhil Rajpal*
  - *Howard Lutnick*
  - *Neil Jacobs*
  - *Taylor Jordan*
  
- *A non-exhaustive list of outside entities includes, but again, is not limited to employees, agents, affiliates, and representatives of the following corporate entities:*
  - *SpaceX*
  - *Starlink*
  - *xAI*
  - *Tesla*
  - *Musk Foundation*
  - *Seadrill*
  - *Transocean*
  - *Panasonic Avionics (including Panasonic Weather Solutions)*
  - *GE Aerospace*
  - *Satelloptic, Inc.*

Pursuant to 15 CFR 4.4(c) “the records requested must be described in enough detail to enable Department personnel to locate them with a reasonable amount of effort. If possible, a request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipient, and subject matter of the records. In general, the more specific the request describes the records sought, the greater likelihood that the Department will be able to locate those records.”

A preliminary search identified over 322,520 potentially responsive records. Due to the broad scope of this request, the volume of records is exceedingly high, making it unduly burdensome for NOAA to process.

As a result, we consider this request unperfected and invite you to submit a more narrowly tailored request. A refined request will allow us to conduct a search that can be reasonably calculated to uncover all relevant records and be processed by NOAA.

To assist us in processing your request, please provide additional search parameters, such as specific search terms, a narrower list of custodians, or a more defined time frame.

Your request will not be processed until we hear from you. If we do not hear from you by May 8th, 2025, we will close the request in our system. We receive correspondence only on business days from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time. FOIA appeals received outside of our normal business hours will be deemed received on the next business day.

You have the right to file an administrative appeal if you are not satisfied with our response to your FOIA request. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why you believe the FOIA response was not satisfactory. An appeal based on documents in this release must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter at the following address:

Assistant General Counsel for Employment, Litigation, and Information  
Attn: FOIA Appeals  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 5896  
Washington, DC 20230

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to [FOIAAppeals@doc.gov](mailto:FOIAAppeals@doc.gov).

For your appeal to be complete, it must include the following items:

- copy of the original request,
- our response to your request,
- a statement explaining why the withheld records should be made available, and why the denial of the records was in error.
- “Freedom of Information Act Appeal” must appear on your appeal letter. It should also be written on your envelope, or e-mail subject line.

FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box, FOIAXpress, or Office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely.

FOIA grants requesters the right to challenge an agency's final action in federal court. Before doing so, an adjudication of an administrative appeal is ordinarily required.

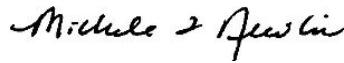
The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), an office created within the National Archives and Records Administration, offers free mediation services to FOIA requesters. They may be contacted in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration  
Room 2510  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
Email: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

Phone: 301-837-1996  
Fax: 301-837-0348  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

If you have questions regarding your request, please contact the NESDIS FOIA Liaison, Michele Newlin, at Michele.Newlin@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



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E.1381838710

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Michele Newlin  
FOIA Liaison  
NOAA Satellite and Information Service