



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

April 7, 2025

Elizabeth Lewis
1629 K Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006

Re: FOIA Request DOC-NOAA-2025-000583

Dear Ms. Lewis:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your subject Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received and entered into our tracking database on March 4, 2025, in which you requested:

“Pursuant to FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3), PEER 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:
o Elon Musk; o Nikhil Rajpal; o Howard Lutnick; o Neil Jacobs; o Taylor Jordan; o The Department of Government Efficiency (“DOGE”); o SpaceX; o Starlink; o xAI; o Tesla; o Musk Foundation; o Seadrill; o Transocean; o Panasonic Avionics (including Panasonic Weather Solutions); o 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 NWS 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:
o Elon Musk; o Nikhil Rajpal; o Howard Lutnick; o Neil Jacobs; o Taylor Jordan; o The Department of Government Efficiency (“DOGE”); o SpaceX; o Starlink; o xAI; o Tesla; o Musk Foundation; o Seadrill; o Transocean; o Panasonic Avionics (including Panasonic Weather Solutions); o 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 NWS 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:
o Elon Musk; o Nikhil Rajpal; o Howard Lutnick; o Neil Jacobs; o 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:
o SpaceX; o Starlink; o xAI; o Tesla; o Musk Foundation; o Seadrill; o Transocean; o Panasonic Avionics (including Panasonic Weather Solutions); o GE Aerospace; o Satellogic, 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 500,000 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 8, 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.

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

- A 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
8601 Adelphi Road, Room 2510
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Email: 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 FOIA case coordinator, Eugenio DaSilva, at eugenio.dasilva@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

LOVE.LISA.PITT Digitally signed by
LOVE.LISA.PITTMAN.152283320
MAN.1522833203 3
Date: 2025.04.08 15:37:13 -04'00'

Lisa P. Love
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Office of the Chief Financial Officer/
Chief Administrative Officer