## FOIA ANNUAL REPORT

**FOR** 

10/01/2014 THROUGH 09/30/2015

Tuesday, December 22, 2015
The following **Annual Freedom of Information Act** report covers the Period 10/01/2014, through 09/30/2015, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552.

#### I. BASIC INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT

1. Provide name, title, address, and telephone number of person(s) to be contacted with questions about the Report.

Linda J. Mauldin

Paralegal Specialist

**Commodity Futures Trading Commission** 

Three Lafayette Centre

1155 21st Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20581

Tel: (202) 418-5497

2. Provide an electronic link for access to the Report on the agency Web site.

http://www.cftc.gov/FOI/foiareadingrooms

3. Explain how to obtain a copy of the Report in paper form.

Submit the Electronic FOIA Request Form at

https://www.cftc.gov/FOI/request/index.htm

Or send a written request to:

FOIA Office Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21st Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20581 Tel: (202) 418-5497

<u>0r</u>

Email:

#### FOIAsubmissions@cftc.gov

#### II. MAKING A FOIA REQUEST

- 1. Provide names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all individual agency components that receive FOIA requests.
- 2. Provide a brief description of why some requests are not granted and an overview of certain general categories of the agency's records to which the FOIA exemptions apply.

### III. ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS

- 1. Provide any agency-specific acronyms or terms used in this Report.
- 2. Include the following definitions of terms used in this Report:
  - a. **Administrative Appeal** a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a FOIA determination made by the agency at the initial request level.
  - b. **Average Number** the number obtained by dividing the sum of a group of numbers by the quantity of numbers in the group. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the average number is 8.
  - c. **Backlog** the number of requests or administrative appeals that are pending at an agency at the end of the fiscal year that are beyond the statutory time period for a response.
  - d. **Component** for agencies that process requests on a decentralized basis, a "component" is an entity, also sometimes referred to as an Office, Division, Bureau, Center, or Directorate, within the agency that processes FOIA requests. The FOIA now requires that agencies include in their Annual FOIA Report data for both the agency overall and for each principal component of the agency.
  - e. **Consultation** the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another agency for its review because that other agency has an interest in the document. Once the agency in receipt of the consultation finishes its review of the record, it responds back to the agency that forwarded it. That agency, in turn, will then respond to the FOIA requester.
  - f. **Exemption 3 Statute** a federal statute that exempts information from disclosure and which the agency relies on to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of the FOIA.
  - g. FOIA Request a FOIA request is generally a request to a federal agency for access to records concerning

another person (i.e., a "third-party" request), or concerning an organization, or a particular topic of interest. FOIA requests also include requests made by requesters seeking records concerning themselves (i.e., "first-party" requests) when those requesters are not subject to the Privacy Act, such as non-U.S. citizens. Moreover, because all first-party requesters should be afforded the benefit of both the access provisions of the FOIA as well as those of the Privacy Act, FOIA requests also include any first-party requests where an agency determines that it must search beyond its Privacy Act "systems of records" or where a Privacy Act exemption applies, and the agency looks to FOIA to afford the greatest possible access. All requests which require the agency to utilize the FOIA in responding to the requester are included in this Report.

Additionally, a FOIA request includes records referred to the agency for processing and direct response to the requester. It does not, however, include records for which the agency has received a consultation from another agency. (Consultations are reported separately in Section XII of this Report.)

- h. **Full Grant** an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.
- i. **Full Denial** an agency decision not to release any records in response to a FOIA request because the records are exempt in their entireties under one or more of the FOIA exemptions, or because of a procedural reason, such as when no records could be located.
- j. **Median Number** the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
- k. **Multi-Track Processing** a system in which simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more voluminous and complex requests are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are processed on a first in/first out basis.
  - i. **Expedited Processing** an agency will process a FOIA request on an expedited basis when a requester satisfies the requirements for expedited processing as set forth in the statute and in agency regulations.
  - ii. **Simple Request** a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (non-expedited) track based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.
  - iii. **Complex Request** a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the high volume and/or complexity of the records requested.
- I. **Partial Grant/Partial Denial** in response to a FOIA request, an agency decision to disclose portions of the records and to withhold other portions that are exempt under the FOIA, or to otherwise deny a portion of the request for a procedural reason.
- m. **Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal** a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.
- n. **Perfected Request** a request for records which reasonably describes such records and is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any) and procedures to be followed.
- o. Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal a request or administrative appeal for which an

- agency has taken final action in all respects.
- p. **Range in Number of Days** the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.
- q. **Time Limits** the time period in the statute for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily twenty working days from receipt of a perfected FOIA request).
- 3. Include the following concise descriptions of the nine FOIA exemptions:
  - a. **Exemption 1:** classified national defense and foreign relations information
  - b. **Exemption 2:** internal agency rules and practices
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  - d. **Exemption 4:** trade secrets and other confidential business information
  - e. **Exemption 5:** inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges
  - f. **Exemption 6:** information involving matters of personal privacy
  - g. **Exemption 7:** records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of those records (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual
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# III. Agency Component Abbreviations

Component Abbreviation	Component Name
CFTC	Commodity Futures Trading Commission

## IV. EXEMPTION 3 STATUTES

Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Agency / Component	Number of Times Relied upon by Agency / Component	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency Overall
7 U.S.C. § 12 (Commodity Exchange Act)	"[D]ata and information that would separately disclose the business transactions of any person" and trade secrets or names of customers gathered in the course of the Commission's investigations under the Commodity Exchange Act	Hunt v. Commodity Futures Trading Comm'n, 484 F. Supp. 47, 49 (D.D.C. 1979).	CFTC	19	19
7 U.S.C. §26(h)(2)(A) (CEA)	[A]ny information, including information provided by a whistleblower to the Commission, which could reasonably be expected to reveal the identity of a whistleblower, unless and until	N/A	CFTC	3	3

required to be disclosed to a defendant or respondent in connection with a public proceeding instituted by the Commission or any entity described in subparagraph (C).		

## V.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED AND PENDING FOIA REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Requests Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
CFTC	35	228	204	59
				0
AGENCY OVERALL	35	228	204	59

We note that this number is two higher than last year's reported pending requests. We have reviewed our tracking system and believe this to be the correct number and the number is consistent with the agency's quarterly reports

# V.B.(1). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- ALL PROCESSED REQUESTS

		Number			Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									
Agency / Component	Number of Full Grants	of Partial Grants /	Number of	No Records	All Records Referred to Another Component or Agency	Request Withdrawn	Fee- Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper FOIA Request for Other Reason	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request		TOTAL	
CFTC	33	51	18	79	0	6	2	1	2	3	1	8	204	
													0	
AGENCY OVERALL	33	51	18	79	0	6	2	1	2	3	1	8	204	

# V.B.(2). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- "OTHER" REASONS FOR "FULL DENIALS BASED ON REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS"

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denials from Chart B(1)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
CFTC	Publicly Available Information	8	8
AGENCY OVERALL			8

# V.B.(3). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
CFTC	0	0	20	34	15	51	19	0	14	4	0	0	1	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	20	34	15	51	19	0	14	4	0	0	1	0

# VI.A. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
CFTC	7	9	15	1
				0
AGENCY OVERALL	7	9	15	1

We note that this number is one higher than last year's reported pending. We have reviewed our tracking system and believe this to be the correct number and the number is consistent with the agency's quarterly reports.

## VI.B. DISPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS -- ALL PROCESSED APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number Affirmed on Appeal	Number Partially Affirmed & Partially Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number Completely Reversed/Remanded on Appeal	Number of Appeals Closed for Other Reasons	TOTAL
CFTC	8	1	2	4	15
					0
AGENCY OVERALL	8	1	2	4	15

# VI.C.(1). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
CFTC	0	0	2	4	2	3	0	0	1	C	0	0	1	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	2	4	2	3	0	0	1	C	0	0	1	0

# VI.C.(2). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS

Agency / Component	No Records	Records Referred at Initial Request Level	Request Withdrawn	Fee- Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper Request for Other Reasons	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request or Appeal	Litigation	Appeal Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	chart below
CFTC	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

# VI.C.(3). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- "OTHER" REASONS

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C(2)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
CFTC	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

# VI.C.(4). RESPONSE TIME FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
AGENCY OVERALL	76.00	252.47	6.00	889.00

# VI.C.(5). TEN OLDEST PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Appeal	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Appeal
	Date of Appeal										
	Number of Days Pending										
AGENCY	Date of Appeal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2015-07-20
OVERALL	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51

### VII.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR ALL PROCESSED PERFECTED REQUESTS

		SIM	PLE			COMI	PLEX		EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
Agency / Component	Median	Average	Lowest	Highest	Median	Average	Lowest	Highest	Median	Average	Lowest	Highest
Component	Number of Days	Number of Days	Number of Days	Number of Days								
	UI Days	UI Days	UI Days	UI Days								
AGENCY												
OVERALL	23	43.32	<1	305	38	72.21	6	333	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

# VII.B. PROCESSED REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR PERFECTED REQUESTS IN WHICH INFORMATION WAS GRANTED

	SIMPLE					COM	PLEX		EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
Agency / Component	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
AGENCY OVERALL	36	51.49	<1	290	136	142.16	13	333	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### VII.C. PROCESSED SIMPLE REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency /	<1-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	101-120	121-140	141-160	161-180	181-200	201-300	301-400	401+	TOTAL
Component	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	TOTAL
CFTC	2	53	23	9	5	6	4	4	3	0	0	3	1	113
														0
AGENCY OVERALL	2	53	23	9	5	6	4	4	3	0	0	3	1	113

### VII.C. PROCESSED COMPLEX REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
CFTC	37	10	9	6	2	7	4	2	3	5	4	2	0	91
														0
AGENCY OVERALL	37	10	9	6	2	7	4	2	3	5	4	2	0	91

### VII.C. PROCESSED REQUESTS GRANTED EXPEDITED PROCESSING -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
'	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	
CFTC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
														0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### **VII.D. PENDING REQUESTS -- ALL PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS**

		SIMPLE		COMPLEX EXPEDITED PROCES				ESSING	
Agency / Component	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Number Pending	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days
AGENCY OVERALL	19	41	64	40	104.5	16.3	0	N/A	N/A

### VII.E. PENDING REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST PENDING PERFECTED REQUESTS

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Request	9th	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Request
	Date of Receipt										
	Number of Days Pending										
AGENCY	Date of Receipt	2014-11-18	2014-09-04	2014-07-28	2014-04-22	2014-04-11	2014-03-17	2013-12-02	2013-11-04	2013-10-17	2013-10-17
OVERALL	Number of Days Pending	218	269	296	363	370	389	460	478	490	490

## **VIII.A. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING**

Agency / Component	Number Granted		Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days
AGENCY OVERALL	0	4	3.5	6.25	3

### **VIII.B. REQUESTS FOR FEE WAIVER**

Agonov /			Median Number of	Average Number
Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Days to	of Days to
Component			Adjudicate	Adjudicate
AGENCY				
OVERALL	0	4	1	1.5

### IX. FOIA PERSONNEL AND COSTS

		PERSONNEL			COSTS	
Agency / Component	Number of "Full- Time FOIA Employees"	Number of "Equivalent Full- Time FOIA Employees"	Total Number of "Full-Time FOIA Staff"	Processing Costs	Litigation-Related Costs	Total Costs
CFTC	1	1.18	2.18	\$199,200.00	\$0.00	\$199,200.00
			0			\$0.00
AGENCY OVERALL	1	1.18	2.18	\$199,200.00	\$0.00	\$199,200.00

## X. FEES COLLECTED FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees	Percentage of Total	
Agency / Component	Collected	Costs	
CFTC	\$1,823.95	0.92%	
AGENCY OVERALL	\$1,823.95	0.92%	

## XII.A. BACKLOGS OF FOIA REQUESTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

	Number of Backlogged	Number of Backlogged
Agency / Component	Requests as of End of	Appeals as of End of
	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
CFTC	53	1
AGENCY OVERALL	53	1

# XII.B. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING CONSULTATIONS

	Number of		Number of	Number of
	Consultations Received	Number of	Consultations Received	Consultations Received
Agency / Component	from Other Agencies	Consultations Received	from Other Agencies	from Other Agencies
Agency / Component	that were <u>Pending</u> at the	from Other Agencies	that were Processed by	that were Pending at the
	Agency as of Start	During the Fiscal Year	the Agency During the	Agency as of End
	of the Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year	of the Fiscal Year
CFTC	0	0	0	0
				0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0

# XII.C. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- TEN OLDEST CONSULTATIONS RECEIVED FROM OTHER AGENCIES AND PENDING AT THE AGENCY

Agency / Component		10th Oldest Consultation	ath	8th	7th	6th	5th	4th	3rd	2nd	Oldest Consultation
	Date										
	Number of Days										
AGENCY	Date	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OVERALL	Number of Days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# XII.D.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- REQUESTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

	NUMBER OF REQ	UESTS <u>RECEIVED</u>	NUMBER OF REQUESTS PROCESSED	
Agency / Component	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
CFTC	166	228	151	204
AGENCY OVERALL	166	228	151	204

We note that this number is higher than last year's reported pending. We have reviewed our tracking system and believe this to be the correct number and the number is consistent with the agency's quarterly reports.

# XII.D.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED REQUESTS

	Number of Backlogged	Number of Backlogged
A manay / Commonant	Requests as of End of the	Requests as of End of the
Agency / Component	Fiscal Year from Previous	Fiscal Year from Current
	Annual Report	Annual Report
CFTC	29	53
AGENCY OVERALL	29	53

# XII.E.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- APPEALS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

	NUMBER OF APF	PEALS <u>RECEIVED</u>	NUMBER OF APPEALS PROCESSED	
Agency / Component	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
CFTC	9	9	6	15
AGENCY OVERALL	9	9	6	15

We note that this number is higher than last year's reported pending. We have reviewed our tracking system and believe this to be the correct number and the number is consistent with the agency's quarterly reports.

# XII.E.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED APPEALS

	Number of Backlogged	Number of Backlogged
A manay / Commonant	Appeals as of End of the	Appeals as of End of the
Agency / Component	Fiscal Year from Previous	Fiscal Year from Current
	Annual Report	Annual Report
CFTC	5	1
AGENCY OVERALL	5	1