



Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse
Syracuse University

December 2, 2008

Janet L. Barnes
Chief FOIA and Privacy Officer
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
FOIA Requestor Service Center
1900 E Street NW, Room 5415
Washington, D.C. 20415-7900

RE: FOIA request for copies of Organizational Component Translation files

Dear Ms. Barnes:

OPM has previously furnished us with copies of then current Organizational Component Translation files. These files are updated semi-annually in March and September of each year. See page 45 of "The Guide to Central Personnel Data File Reporting Requirements" (<https://www.opm.gov/feddata/gr34.pdf>).

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, we request electronic copies of the current and any prior versions of the Organizational Component Translation files that are available. We are particularly interested in periods since September 2005.

With respect to this request, we further ask: (a) to be classified as "an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, whose purpose is scholarly or scientific research," and as "a representative of the news media" under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1986; and (b) for a full waiver of fees. Disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because these files contain the official description of how federal agencies are organized into component units. Thus, these records are central to public understanding of the operation of the federal government. TRAC is seeking these records to assist us in preparing our regularly published reports, made available through our web site (<http://trac.syr.edu>), on staffing and activities of federal agencies. Our reports have received wide public and media attention. We are currently working on further updates to these reports and it is for this purpose that these records are being sought.

In connection with prior requests for the earlier CPDF files, we furnished OPM with a detailed factual basis underlying this classification and fee waiver request in our May 10, 1999 letter for the FY98 and March 30, 1999 CPDF files. We incorporate these letters by reference. At that time OPM granted us a full (100%) fee waiver. Should you require any additional information, please let us know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Long Co-Director, TRAC and
Associate Professor
Martin J. Whitman School of Management