

ALERT REPORT
REVIEW OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CONDITIONS
AT THE BANNISTER FEDERAL COMPLEX
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
ASSIGNMENT NUMBER A100116
JUNE 24, 2010



U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Office of Inspector General

Date : June 24, 2010

Reply to
Attn of : Regional Inspector General for Auditing (JA-6)

Subject : Alert Report
Review of Health and Safety Conditions at the Bannister Federal Complex
Kansas City, Missouri
Assignment Number A100116

To : Jason O. Klumb
Regional Administrator (6A)
General Services Administration's Heartland Region

The purpose of this alert report is to inform you that the Heartland Region was not fully responsive to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, requests pertaining to the health and environmental conditions at the Bannister Federal Complex (Complex) in Kansas City, Missouri. As such, we wanted to notify you about this situation so you could take appropriate action.

In response to Senator Christopher Bond's February 3, 2010, request to GSA's Inspector General, our office initiated an audit of the environmental conditions at the Complex. The FOIA issue was identified during this audit.

On November 12, 2009, and February 5, 2010, GSA received FOIA requests from non-governmental organizations for documentation related to workplace hazards and health issues at the Complex. The Heartland Region provided information in response to these requests on January 10 and 15, as well as February 9 and 26, 2010.

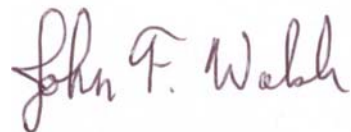
As part of our review, we obtained documentation pertaining to the Complex from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). In reviewing that documentation, we identified information that we had not previously seen in the FOIA productions. Included in this information was a letter dated January 7, 2005, from the MDNR to GSA. This letter provided MDNR's comments related to a draft report on an investigation of the source of trichloroethylene contamination at the Complex. We believe this letter to be responsive to the FOIA requests. While the impact of this letter is not fully known at this time, it nevertheless should have been produced to comply with FOIA requirements.

We first provided the subject letter to a regional Public Buildings Service (PBS) official on May 6, 2010, and requested that he determine whether PBS had a copy of the letter in its files. He could not locate the letter. On June 9, 2010, we again asked that the issue be researched. On June 21, 2010, an official confirmed that the Region had the letter in its files but had not produced it in response to the FOIA requests. When asked why it had

not been produced in response to the FOIA requests, the official stated that the prior electronic search of the PBS records had not identified the document.

Accordingly, we recommend that you review your compliance with these FOIA requests and disclose the January 7, 2005, letter and all other responsive documents as required by law.

This report is advisory in nature and is not subject to the audit resolution process. This issue will be included in the overall audit that is being conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John F. Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

John F. Walsh
Regional Inspector General for Auditing
Heartland Region