

**Bruce & Sara Schundler**

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**From:** <Charis\_Wilson@nps.gov>  
**To:** "Bruce & Sara Schundler" <bruce@schundler.net>  
**Cc:** <Jack\_O'Brian@nps.gov>; <William\_Nelligan@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 1:44 PM  
**Subject:** FOIA Appeal Status

Dear Mr. Schundler,

In the spirit of transparency and open communication, that has been requested by President Obama, I wanted to let you know that I have received your e-mails regarding your FOIA request. However, at this time we are still awaiting the final decision from the DOI FOIA appeals officer Darrell Strayhorn. We have received prior communication from her, in reference to a different appeal issue, that her "decision on what is and is not protected from disclosure under the FOIA represents the Department's final decision on the issue". Moreover, in relation to that same appeal, we were specifically instructed that we should not "speak with the Appellant regarding [their] appeal" without her authorization or at her request.

Therefore, all I can tell you is that she contacted us regarding your appeal, on December 8, 2009, and requested that we provide her with answers to questions regarding how we processed your request. We provided her the answers to her questions on December 10, 2009. Since then we have heard nothing more from her office and so are, like you, also awaiting her decision.

As part of the 2007 OPEN Government Act, the Office of Government Information Services was created. <http://www.archives.gov/ogis/> I attended several sessions by their staff at the recent American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP) training conference and I would recommend that you contact their office. They have legal authority to contact DOI FOIA Appeals Office regarding your appeal, while we do not.

Sincerely,

C.

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"What we find changes who we become." - Peter Morville

"The historian works with records...there is no substitute for records: no records, no history." - Paraphrasing Langlois & Seignobos (1903)

"Let us be guardians, not gardeners" - Adolph Murie