



Resolution Number 11-2
Approved March 30, 2011
Alexandria, Virginia

As certified by
R. Steven Brown
Executive Director

RESPECTFUL USE OF DATA

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of data in U.S. EPA databases is generated by state, local and tribal officials; and

WHEREAS, the states are obligated under various program grants to make quality data and information available to the U.S. EPA in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA and the states present data in various ways and forums on their websites; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA receives requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA is required to make requested records available unless the records are protected from disclosure by certain FOIA exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the FOIA applies only to federal agencies and not to records held by U.S. Congress, the courts, or by state or local government agencies; and

WHEREAS, the FOIA entitles exemptions on documents being requested by the public including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Those documents properly classified as secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy;
 2. Related solely to internal personnel rules and practices;
 3. Specifically exempted by other statutes;
 4. A trade secret or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information obtained from a person;
 5. A privileged inter-agency or intra-agency memorandum or letter;
 6. Compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of which
 - a. could reasonably be expected to interfere with law 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, procedures, or guidelines for investigations or prosecutions, or
 - f. could reasonably be expected to endanger an individual's life or physical safety;
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