UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DUSTIN MICHAEL SLAUGHTER,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 23-1406 (TSC)

JOINT STATUS REPORT

By and through undersigned counsel, the parties, Plaintiff Dustin Michael Slaughter, and Defendant National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA"), respectfully submit this Joint Status Report. This is an action under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, in which Plaintiff seeks records related to Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) and Unidentified Undersea Phenomena (UUP).

Joint Report on the Status of Plaintiff's FOIA Request and Appeal

Plaintiff's appeal was not submitted to Defendant NOAA, but was instead properly submitted to the Department of Commerce ("DOC" or "Department"), as DOC handles administrative FOIA appeals for its components. DOC denied Plaintiff's appeal as moot on January 11, 2024, as NOAA was taking remedial administrative action based on the additional information Plaintiff provided with its appeal and motion for summary judgment.

Following additional leads presented by Plaintiff's administrative appeal (submitted May 11, 2022) and Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment (filed August 2, 2023), Defendant NOAA located 12 records (comprising a total of 19 documents) that it deemed responsive to Plaintiff's FOIA request. All of those documents required consultation with other agencies outside

of NOAA, and the consultation process was initiated in December 2023. Defendant produced 5 records (comprising 6 documents) on March 12, 2024, and 7 records (comprising 13 documents) on April 11, 2024.

As reported in prior Joint Status Reports, in May 2024 Plaintiff requested additional searches for communications with the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force, which is under the auspices of the Department of Defense, and the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, an Office within the Department of Defense. NOAA conducted additional searches and found approximately 30 documents responsive to the request but that external consults remain ongoing.

NOAA reports that the consults remain ongoing; nine agencies have completed their consultations, and one agency has consults still pending. NOAA will produce non-exempt portions of all the documents when consultations complete. (Since each document pending consultation is still pending consultation with multiple agencies, it appears unlikely that any interim production is possible until all agencies have weighed in.) NOAA avers it has been regularly following up with these agencies requesting expedited completion of the pending consultations.

Plaintiff has not indicated any further concerns with the records produced or the searches performed.

Proposed Next Date for a Joint Status Report

The parties respectfully request additional time to meet and confer, and will submit a further joint status report on or before March 7, 2025.

* * *

Dated: February 7, 2025
Washington, DC

Respectfully submitted,

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