



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 9, 2024

John S. Quarterman
wwalswatershed@gmail.com

Re: FFRA-24-00257

Dear John Quarterman:

This letter acknowledges receipt by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 9, 2024, and received on the same date, in which you requested, *“approval to transport liquefied natural gas (methane, refrigerated liquid (UN 1972), or LNG) b rail, in intermodal (1M) portable tanks in container-on-flatcar or trailer-on-flatcar service, from origination and destination points on the FEC network; and copies of any letters, memorandums, or notes in response to or related to that FEC request, both from FRA and from FEC as well as third parties, including FEC's "various documents it submitted to FRA in 2015 and 2016.”*

FRA assigned your request the FOIA file number indicated above. Please include this number on all correspondence with this office.

Because of the need to search and collect the requested records from several program offices or field offices, “unusual circumstances” applies and FRA is extending the time limit to respond to your request by 10 workdays. *See* 49 C.F.R. § 7.34(a)(1). FRA has placed your request in the complex processing track. *See* 49 C.F.R. § 7.31(b). Please note that FRA is experiencing a high number of FOIA requests and is addressing requests on a first-in, first-out basis. Your request will be addressed in the order it was received. FRA regrets any inconvenience caused by the delay.

To reduce FRA’s response time, consider refining your request by narrowing the scope. This could involve narrowing the record types or date ranges covered in the request, which would reduce the volume of potentially responsive documents. Please contact the FRA FOIA Office at FRAFOIA@dot.gov or the FOIA Public Liaison, William Wong, at FRAFOIALiaison@dot.gov if you wish to discuss options that would allow FRA to respond to your request more quickly.

FRA has placed you in the “Educational or Noncommercial Scientific Institution” fee category. 49 C.F.R. §§ 7.42(g)(2), (i). In this fee category, you do not pay fees for search or review time. *Id.* If you are interested in railroad accident data or reports, including railroad supplied accident reports for specific accidents, you can access these materials through the FRA website at: <https://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/officeofsafety>.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of your request, please feel free to contact the FRA FOIA Office at FRAFOIA@dot.gov. You may also contact FRA's FOIA Public Liaison, William Wong, at FRAFOIALiaison@dot.gov for any further assistance..

Sincerely,

Yolanda Brown
The FOIA Office
Office of Chief Counsel