



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

March 11, 2014

Office of Counsel

Ralph Sletager
120 East Lake Street, Suite 101
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Dear Mr. Sletager:

In response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated January 7, 2014, enclosed are the 1955, 1964 and 1981 Recreational Development Plans (Master Plans) for the Albeni Falls Project. A 320-page document (*Albeni Falls Project, Oldtown, Bonner County, Idaho, Working Draft, Recreation and Natural Resources Master Plan*, dated July 2005), and 30 Master Plan plates (drawings) that go along with this draft 2005 Master Plan, were withheld under Exemption 5 as pre-decisional. This privilege was enacted to "prevent injury to the quality of agency decisions." NLRB v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 421 U.S. 132, 151 (1975). The privilege for deliberative material applies to agency documents that reflect advisory opinions, preliminary staff recommendations and deliberations. Withholding of these documents pursuant to Exemption 5 is necessary to encourage open, frank discussion on matters of policy between subordinates and superiors; protect against premature disclosure of proposed policies before they are finally adopted; and protect against public confusion that might result from disclosure of reasons or rationales that are not in fact ultimately the grounds for an agency decision.

I trust you will appreciate the considerations upon which this determination is based. However, because your request has been partially denied, you are advised of your right to appeal this determination through this office to the Secretary of the Army (ATTN: General Counsel). An appeal must be received by the appellate authority within 60 days of the date of this letter. The envelope containing the appeal should bear the notation "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" and should be sent to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CENWS-OC, P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, WA 98124-3755.

If you have any further questions, you can contact Richard Hynes at (206) 764-3735.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Siri C. Nelson".

Siri C. Nelson
District Counsel

Enclosure