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Description of document: Surface Transportation Board (STB) Records on the Sunsetting of the FOIAonline Interagency Portal and planned replacement of this FOIA tracking and administration capability 2021

Requested date: 04-December-2021

Release date: 23-December-2021

Posted date: 23-December-2021

Source of document: FOIA/Privacy Officer
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
Fax: (202) 245-0456
Email: FOIA.Privacy@stb.gov
[FOIAonline](#)

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Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

December 23, 2021

Via Email

Subject: STB FOIA Request STB-2022-000023 (FOIAOnline Sunsetting)

We are granting your FOIA request seeking records “concerning the sunsetting of the FOIAonline system in September 2022, and planned replacement of this FOIA tracking and administration capability in the STB FOIA Office.” For your convenience, we will upload the redacted and unredacted records as responsive to your request in FOIAonline.gov. In three records, we are redacting meeting links and bulk email lists because they do not contain any responsive information and based on Exemption 6.

Appeal Rights

You may appeal to the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board within 90 days of receiving this determination to withhold certain information in the responsive record under Exemption 6. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). Any appeal should be addressed to Chairman Martin J. Oberman, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington DC 20423, as well as emailed to Chairman.Staff@stb.gov. Of course, you are welcome to contact me before filing an appeal, so that we can see if there is another way that the Board can help you.

You may also seek dispute resolution services from the STB FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). OGIS offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. We encourage you to use OGIS’s mediation services, if you feel it would be helpful, and the Board will participate. Of course, using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation (once your administrative appeal is complete). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

We will bill you for FOIA fees, if applicable. Please feel free to contact me if you have any

questions, referring to FOIA Request STB-2022-000023.

Sincerely,

Chris Oehrle

Christopher Oehrle
FOIA/Privacy Officer
Office of the General Counsel
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
Phone: (202) 245-0271
FOIA.Privacy@stb.dot.gov

To

Subject

One thing I just wanted to make as you were aware that the e was a meeting o/c up in the context of FOLIO as by FY23 and what we happen in he means the I w at end I do not appear but much w change for a while and they are expected o/c as we that they w make this an easy transition. Thank you Ch

...O gta Appointment...
 From: Thompson B wK <Thompson.B.wK@psa.gov>
 Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2021 4:00 PM
 To: Dr. J. P. Olson <Dr.J.P.Olson@psa.gov>
 When: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 1:00 PM to 1:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
 Who: M & C (off) Team Meeting

Discuss this decision with your tutor. For Assignment 1, see page 10.

Microsoft Teams meeting

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C. d. h. e. o. j. n. h. e. m. e. i. n.

Q ca n(what's my V)

Mr. United States, Washington, D.C.

Yada eka number

By participating in this chat, you agree to the following terms of use: This chat is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of insurance or any other financial product. The information provided is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. Please consult with your insurance broker or financial advisor for more information. The information provided is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice. Please consult with your insurance broker or financial advisor for more information.

Learn More

From: [Thompson, BrianK](#)
To: [Edwards, Jeff](#); [Johnson, Laura-S](#); [Jones, Jasper](#); [Perkins, Shannon](#)
Subject: FOIAonline Next Steps and Future
Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021 3:43:51 PM

Good afternoon,

I am reaching out to announce that EPA, in consultation with the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer, has decided to sunset the FOIAonline Shared Service by the end of FY23.

We are sharing this notice at our earliest opportunity and I want to assure you that we will continue to support your FOIA requests and case management needs until that time. Moreover, we will provide assistance to you during the off-boarding process and support migration efforts as we all work to ensure everyone succeeds and stays well informed.

We will be holding an initial meeting for the FOIAonline partners on Tuesday, November 30th to discuss this decision, listen to your needs and questions, and provide our high level plans for the next two years so you can begin your program's transition. I want to reiterate that our team will continue to work with each of you and your programs over the next two years to assist you in the ongoing operations of FOIAonline and your transition to whatever alternative FOIA case management solution you select.

Thank you, and as always, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

-Brian

Brian Thompson | Director

eDiscovery Division
Office of Enterprise Information Programs (OEIP)
Office of Mission Support (OMS)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
phone: (202) 564-4256

From: Debala, Chittabhai, on behalf of Thompson, Brian
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FBI: FIDAMobile (FBI) (FBI) (FBI)

Debala, I just wanted to make sure you were aware that they were meeting to explain the status of FIDAMobile by FY23 and what will happen in the interim. I will stand. It does not appear that much will change for a while, and they are expected to come to that they will make this as easy transition. Thank you, Chela.

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Thompson, Brian <Thompson.Brian@fbi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:10 PM
Subject: FIDAMobile (FBI) (FBI) (FBI)
When: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (ET & Canada)
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Discuss the decision to meet FIDAMobile by FY23

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)

Phone Conference ID: [REDACTED] 343 400 1234, Washington, DC

Pass Code: [REDACTED]

Find a location:

By participating in this live event meeting and/or using your account, you are consenting to the use of your information by the agency's terms of use. In addition, you acknowledge that content you post may be collected and used in support of FOIA and Discovery activities.

Learn More

From: [Thompson, BrianK](#)
To: [Edwards, Jeff](#); [Johnson, Laura-S](#); [Jones, Jasper](#); [Perkins, Shannon](#)
Subject: FOIAonline Next Steps and Future
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 10:58:59 AM

Good morning,

I am re-sending a message that was sent yesterday afternoon in case you did not receive the original.

I am reaching out to announce that EPA, in consultation with the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer, has decided to sunset the FOIAonline Shared Service by the end of FY23.

We are sharing this notice at our earliest opportunity and I want to assure you that we will continue to support your FOIA requests and case management needs until that time. Moreover, we will provide assistance to you during the off-boarding process and support migration efforts as we all work to ensure everyone succeeds and stays well informed.

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Thank you, and as always, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

-Brian

Brian Thompson | Director

eDiscovery Division
Office of Enterprise Information Programs (OEIP)
Office of Mission Support (OMS)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
phone: (202) 564-4256

From: [Johnson, Laura-S](#)
To: [Oehrle, Christopher](#)
Cc: [Edwards, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: FOIAonline Next Steps and Future
Date: Monday, November 22, 2021 3:52:50 PM

Good afternoon Chris,

Unfortunately, you heard correctly. We will be sunsetting the program and shutter it on Dec 30th, 2023. Here's a bit more information that might help raise your comfort level after receiving this news. Our road map for the next 2 years will focus on guiding the Partners through the sunsetting process which will include assisting Partners in the pursuit of finding a new FOIA case management solution. This information and more details pertaining to the sunsetting timeline will be shared during a Partner meeting scheduled for November 30th. You should have received an invitation. Please let me know if you haven't.

Keep in mind that the sunsetting won't happen immediately (it will be a 2-year process). I hope you can trust that we will escort you and the other Partners through a thorough process at a comfortable pace that won't leave anyone in a lurch. Again, we will provide more details about the process and timeline at our next Partner meeting, and we plan for a series of meetings thereafter to cover a range of Partner concerns and questions. In the interim, please feel free to reach out to me.

From: Oehrle, Christopher <Christopher.Oehrle@stb.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 3:59 PM
To: Johnson, Laura-S <Johnson.Laura-S@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FOIAonline Next Steps and Future

Hi Laura,

In plain English, does this mean what I think it means – that we will have to find another way to manage our FOIA requests by September 30, 2021?

That is fine. We have two years, but I want to be clear before I notify our agency senior management. Thank you, Chris.

From: Thompson, BrianK <Thompson.BrianK@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Edwards, Jeff <Edwards.Jeff@epa.gov>; Johnson, Laura-S <Johnson.Laura-S@epa.gov>; Jones, Jasper <Jones.Jasper@epa.gov>; Perkins, Shannon <perkins.shannon@epa.gov>
Subject: FOIAonline Next Steps and Future

Good afternoon,

I am reaching out to announce that EPA, in consultation with the Office of the Federal Chief

Information Officer, has decided to sunset the FOIAonline Shared Service by the end of FY23.

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Thank you, and as always, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

-Brian

Brian Thompson | Director

eDiscovery Division

Office of Enterprise Information Programs (OEIP)

Office of Mission Support (OMS)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

phone: (202) 564-4256

[REDACTED]

Subject: FOIAonline Next Steps and Future

When: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Discuss this decision to sunset FOIAonline by FY23

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[REDACTED]

Or call in (audio only)

[REDACTED]

United States, Washington DC

Phone Conference ID: [REDACTED]

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

By participating in EPA hosted virtual meetings and events, you are consenting to abide by the agency's terms of use. In addition, you acknowledge that content you post may be collected and used in support of FOIA and eDiscovery activities.

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

*FOIAonline Partner Meeting
Sunsetting Overview and Next Steps*

November 30, 2021

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Teams Meeting

Agenda

- I. Sunset Announcement
- II. Meeting Purpose and Structure
- III. Sunsetting Decision Rationale
- IV. Overview of Sunsetting Schedule
- V. FOIAonline Sunsetting Support
 - a. Partner input and feedback will help drive the communications and FOIAonline support elements of this transition.
 - b. Partner needs/concerns/questions/requests related to sunsetting should be sent to our FOIAonline team (Jeff, Jasper, and Laura). This allows for a central focal point for these communications and allows our contractors and help desk to maintain focus on everyday operations. Please don't go through our contractors or help desk, as they need to maintain focus on everyday FOIAonline operations.
- VI. Upcoming meetings and events

Meeting: We would like to host a series of meetings to feed you information and to address your information needs. Thus far, **some proposed meeting topics for the near future include** (meetings will take place every two weeks):

 - **Sunsetting Process Logistics/Timing (tentatively scheduled for early January 2022):**
Phasing/timing of sunsetting that includes timing for last year-end report, migrating data, and a code freeze. Accessibility to data after sunsetting, public notifications
 - To be Scheduled in late January 2022
 - **Budget and MOUs/MOAs:**
 - **Case Management Alternatives:**

Event: NexGen FOIA Tech Showcase in February 2022

The information that we have on this event is as follows:

The Chief FOIA Officers (CFO) Council's Technology Committee, in conjunction with The Office of Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Information Policy (OIP), are hosting an event for federal agencies in February 2022 called the **NexGen FOIA Tech Showcase**.

The purpose of this two-day event is to identify FOIA technology solutions for federal agencies in response to existing FOIA case processing challenges raised through the Technology Committee's research. Additionally, the event is intended to help federal agencies better understand the promise of artificial intelligence and advanced/emerging technology for case processing.

On the first day of the showcase, FOIA practitioners and industry partners will share issues, insights, and explore potential solutions in the following areas:

- eDiscovery/electronic record search tools
- Case processing tools (including the collection of records to review for redaction and posting accessible 508 compliant releases)
- Redaction tools (including tools that allow for automatic redaction of similar forms and record types including paper, digital content, videos, data, etc.)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools that may assist with FOIA case processing.

On the second day, attendees will discuss how these tools can improve agency FOIA programs in the following ways:

- The future of FOIA
- Improved public FOIA reading rooms/websites
- Improving the FOIA customer experience

From: [Thompson, BrianK](#)
To: [Thompson, BrianK](#)
Cc: [Edwards, Jeff](#); [Johnson, Laura-S](#); [Jones, Jasper](#); [Perkins, Shannon](#); [Wells, Jeffrey](#); [Grimm, Patrick](#); [Noga, Vaughn](#)
Subject: Follow up: FOIAonline Next Steps Meeting
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 2:59:54 PM

Good afternoon,

I wanted to again thank everyone for your time yesterday and the terrific discussion that we had. The FOIAonline program staff will be working to get a lot of the information requested out by the end of this week.

- All FOIAonline user main POCs will be receiving a list of all main POCs by Friday.
- All FOIAonline user main POCs will be receiving a list of potential vendors we are currently aware of by Friday.
- Everyone on this email chain will be receiving invitations to demonstrations by some of the potential vendors of their solutions/tools (those that have responded to our inquiries). This will begin once dates/times are set.

I also want to make another pitch for everyone to attend the Chief FOIA Officer Technology Committee's NexGen FOIA Tech Showcase in February. After yesterday's call I reached back out to the Technology Committee to make sure I understood the types of potential vendors/solutions that will be present at the showcase. I am letting you know that case management solutions **will** be present at the showcase.

You can read the [blog post here](#) where the Technology Committee first announced the RFI's publication ([link to RFI](#)). It is a multi-faceted RFI that seeks vendor submissions on 7 different topics, including case management. The deadline was extended from 11/23 to 12/8 due to the Thanksgiving shuffle and so far there are about 9 sets of submissions from vendors, most of which cover more than a single topic. It is anticipated that additional submissions will come in over the next 7 days and the Technology Committee is excited with the submissions thus far.

Jeff, Laura, Jasper and I are committed to helping you make this transition as smooth and seamless as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. We expect to have our next Partner meeting in mid-January to provide additional information, outline our next steps, and continue to listen to your feedback and answer outstanding questions. We will also be holding a Change Control Board meeting the week of December 13th to discuss requirements and needs surrounding Record Schedules that may impact exports, migrations and the transitions. In addition, beginning in January and continuing through March, we will reach out to schedule a one-on-one technical consultation with each partners for an hour, if they feel that would be helpful.

Thank you,
-Brian

Brian Thompson | Director

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