



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 3, 2011

Thomas J. Reuter
Acting FOIA Officer
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

RE: Pre-Authorization Request – 2010 PAC 11508

Dear Mr. Reuter:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) of its intention to deny disclosure of certain information pursuant to Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.*

Specifically, on November 9, 2010, Ms. Christine Pietrzyk submitted a FOIA request to IEPA, seeking a copy of all documents concerning former Premcor Refinery Facility located at 13100 South Kedzie Avenue, Blue Island, Illinois. In its written notice, IEPA asserts that certain documents, contained within the requested records, have been withheld from disclosure under Section 7(1)(f) of FOIA (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(f)).

Determination

Section 7(1)(f) of FOIA exempts from inspection and copying “[p]reliminary” drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record or relevant portion of a record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body.” *Id.*

IEPA’s use of the Section 7(1)(f) exemption with regard to the withheld documents is **approved**. We have determined that the withheld documents contain opinions and recommendations that IEPA relied upon in its decision-making process regarding specific matters. Further, IEPA has indicated that none of these documents have been publicly cited by the Director of IEPA. As such, IEPA has met its initial burden of demonstrating that the withheld information is exempt from disclosure under Section 7(1)(f) of FOIA.

January 3, 2011

Page 2

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at (312) 814-6437.
This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Sincerely,

Cara Smith
Public Access Counselor

By:



Tola Sobitan
Assistant Public Access Counselor

cc: Christine Pietrzyk
Roux Associates
2000 Spring Road, Ste 420
Oak Brook, IL 60523

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