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May 12, 2026

**VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION (DOI eFOIA Portal)**

FOIA Officer  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 2335  
Washington, DC 20240

**RE: Freedom of Information Act Request — Communications and Deliberative Records Concerning the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool Procurement (Contract No. 140P2026C0028)**

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of Public Citizen, Inc., and pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request copies of the following records concerning the National Park Service's resurfacing, coating, and water-purification work at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, including Contract No. 140P2026C0028 awarded on April 3, 2026, by the NPS Denver Service Center to Atlantic Industrial Coatings, LLC, and the companion contract awarded to Greenwater Services for the water-purification system (collectively, the "Project"). The time period for this request is October 1, 2025, through the date of search:

1. All communications (including emails, text messages, Signal messages, calendar entries, meeting notes, call logs) concerning the Project between any official or employee of the National Park Service or the Department of the Interior and any of the following: (a) Atlantic Industrial Coatings, LLC, or its officers, employees, or representatives, including Curtis E. "Eddie" Wood; (b) Greenwater Services, or its officers, employees, or representatives; (c) the Executive Office of the President, including the White House Office, OMB, CEQ, and the Office of Government Ethics; (d) the Trump Organization or any Trump-affiliated business, including Trump National Golf Club Washington, D.C. (Sterling, Virginia); (e) the Commission of Fine Arts; and (f) the National Capital Planning Commission.
2. Briefing memoranda, decision memoranda, talking points, scheduling memoranda, and pre-decisional analyses concerning the Project prepared for or by the Secretary of the Interior, the Deputy Secretary, the Director or Deputy Directors of the National Park Service, the National Capital Area Regional Director, the Superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, and the assigned contracting officer(s).

3. Records concerning the three companies that, according to President Trump’s public statements, were consulted before the Atlantic Industrial contract was awarded, including capability statements, market-research records, vendor outreach logs, vendor responses, and any records identifying those companies.(The president did not name those firms.)
4. Records concerning the determination to invoke the “unusual and compelling urgency” exception under FAR 6.302-2 / 41 U.S.C. § 3304(a)(2) for either contract, including draft and final Justification and Authorization documents, internal review and concurrence records, and related communications.
5. Records concerning whether the Project was, or should have been, submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts or the National Capital Planning Commission for review, including internal analysis comparing the Project’s review procedures to those followed for prior Reflecting Pool work, and any communications to or from those Commissions on this subject.
6. Records reflecting any prior contracting or business relationship between the National Park Service or the Department of the Interior and Atlantic Industrial Coatings or Greenwater Services, and any records of prior work performed by either company at properties owned, operated, or branded by President Trump or the Trump Organization.

If it is your position that responsive records exist but that those records (or portions of those records) are exempt from disclosure, please identify the records that are being withheld and state the basis for the denial for each record being withheld. In addition, please note that Public Citizen seeks each record in its entirety. Accordingly, please provide all nonexempt portions of the records, without redacting portions of any record as “non-responsive,” “out of scope,” or the like.

I request that any records produced in response to this request be provided in electronic form wherever possible.

To expedite review, Public Citizen welcomes the production of responsive records on a rolling basis as they are processed, and does not require the agency to assemble all responsive records before beginning production.

Public Citizen requests that all fees in connection with this FOIA request be waived in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) because Public Citizen does not seek the records for a commercial purpose and disclosure “is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government.”

The requested records will shed light on a \$13.1 million federal procurement that is the subject of intense national media coverage and a federal lawsuit. According to The New York Times, the National Park Service awarded Atlantic Industrial Coatings a no-bid contract on April 3, 2026, after President Donald J. Trump publicly stated he had “a guy who’s unbelievable at doing swimming pools” and that he had consulted three companies that had previously worked on his personal swimming pools before choosing one that had worked at Trump National Golf Club in

Sterling, Virginia. See David A. Fahrenthold and Luke Broadwater, *The No-Bid Contract That Is Turning Washington's Reflecting Pool Blue*, N.Y. Times (May 8, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/08/us/politics/reflecting-pool-trump-contract.html>. The Times reported that the Interior Department invoked the “unusual and compelling urgency” exception ordinarily reserved to prevent “serious injury, financial or other, to the government,” but that administration officials made no public claim that such injury was likely. *Id.* On May 11, 2026, The Hill reported that the Interior Department had quietly added \$6.2 million to the Atlantic Industrial contract late the prior week, bringing the total to \$13.1 million. See *Cost of Trump's reflecting pool repairs balloon by \$11.3 million, to \$13.1M*, The Hill (May 11, 2026), <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5872939-reflecting-pool-renovation-cost-increase/>. Also on May 11, 2026, the Cultural Landscape Foundation filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia seeking to halt the project, alleging that the administration bypassed statutorily required review of alterations to historic landmarks. See *Trump Reflecting Pool Paint Job Draws New Lawsuit Over Review*, Bloomberg Law (May 11, 2026), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/trump-reflecting-pool-paint-job-draws-new-lawsuit-over-review>. The communications and deliberative records sought here would inform the public about the role, if any, played by the White House and senior Interior Department leadership in directing the procurement; whether agency officials raised concerns regarding the cost, the urgency determination, or the contractor selection; and the basis for any decision not to submit the Project for review by the Commission of Fine Arts or the National Capital Planning Commission. None of these records has been made public.

Public Citizen is a nonprofit research, litigation, and advocacy organization that represents the public interest before Congress, the executive branch, and the courts. Public Citizen has considerable expertise in the issues relevant to this records request, including federal procurement integrity, executive-branch conflicts of interest, and government transparency. Public Citizen has investigated and reported extensively on government contracting and spending decisions affecting Trump-affiliated entities, including its November 2025 *Banquet of Greed* report on financial conflicts of interest in the second Trump administration. See Jonathan Edwards, *Report: Donors to Trump's White House ballroom have \$279B in federal contracts*, Wash. Post (Nov. 3, 2025), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/11/03/trump-ballroom-donors-contracts-enforcement/>.

Public Citizen does not have a commercial interest in the requested records.

Public Citizen has a strong record of effectively conveying information to the public, including information obtained through Public Citizen's use of FOIA, and Public Citizen intends to share the information received from this request with the public free of charge. Public Citizen distributes information through its website (<https://www.citizen.org>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/publiccitizen>, more than 144,000 followers), Bluesky (<https://bsky.app/profile/publiccitizen.org>, more than 68,000 followers), and email listservs. It also maintains multiple blogs, publishes a bi-monthly newspaper (*Public Citizen News*), and issues frequent press releases (<https://www.citizen.org/news/type/press/>). Many of Public Citizen's reports, petitions, or other research products grab headlines in major newspapers, broadcast media, social media, and academic journals. Nearly every day, print and broadcast

media around the world mention Public Citizen or quote its experts. Public Citizen also makes its experts available to speak to the media, at conferences, and to testify before Congress.

Accordingly, I request that you waive all fees for locating and duplicating the requested records because Public Citizen is entitled to a public interest fee waiver. If, however, a waiver is not granted, please advise me of the amount of any proposed search, review, and reproduction charges before you conduct those activities.

I further request expedited processing under 43 C.F.R. § 2.20(a)(2) and (a)(4). Public Citizen is an organization primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public, and there is an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal-government activity — the active performance of a \$13.1 million sole-source contract on the National Mall, now under judicial challenge. The matter is also the subject of widespread and exceptional media interest with possible questions about the government’s integrity that affect public confidence. See sources cited above.

I expect a response within 20 working days as provided by law. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me by phone at 202.804.2744 or by email at [zeverson@citizen.org](mailto:zeverson@citizen.org).

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Zach Everson  
On behalf of Public Citizen