PUBLIC CITIZEN FOUNDATION 1600 20th Street NW Washington, DC 20009,	) ) )
Plaintiff,	) Civil Action No. 18-cv-117
v.  UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20210, and,	COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF  AND  AND  AND  AND  AND  AND  AND  AN
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20210, Defendants.	) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Plaintiff brings this action under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, to compel the production of summary injury and illness records submitted to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) pursuant to the final rule entitled "Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses," 81 Fed. Reg. 29624 (May 12, 2016) (the Final Rule).

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).
- 3. Venue is proper under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e).

#### **PARTIES**

- 4. Plaintiff Public Citizen Foundation is a non-profit public-interest organization that, among other things, works to promote openness in government, including by disseminating information to advance government accountability. Public Citizen Health Research Group (HRG) is a division of Public Citizen Foundation and submitted the FOIA requests at issue in this case. HRG promotes research-based, system-wide changes in health care policy, including in the area of occupational health.
  - 5. Defendant Department of Labor (DOL) is an agency of the United States.
- 6. Defendant OSHA is the component of the Department of Labor that has possession of and control over the records that plaintiff seeks.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

7. OSHA record-keeping regulations "require[] employers with more than 10 employees in most industries to keep records of occupational injuries and illnesses at their establishments." 81 Fed. Reg. at 29624 (citing 29 C.F.R. part 1904). "Employers covered by these rules must record each recordable employee injury and illness on an OSHA Form 300, which is the 'Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses," and "must also prepare a supplementary OSHA Form 301 'Injury and Illness Incident Report' or equivalent that provides additional details about each case recorded on the OSHA Form 300." *Id.* "[A]t the end of each year, employers are required to prepare a summary report of all injuries and illnesses on the OSHA Form 300A, which is the

'Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses,' and post the form in a visible location in the workplace." *Id.*; *see* 29 C.F.R. § 1904.32(b)(5).

- 8. The purpose of the OSHA regulations cited above is to "require employers to record and report work-related fatalities, injuries, and illnesses." 29 C.F.R. § 1904.0. OSHA has stated that such reporting "does not mean that the employer or employee was at fault, that an OSHA rule has been violated, or that the employee is eligible for workers' compensation or other benefits." *Id*.
- 9. OSHA previously obtained forms 300, 301, and 300A only by requesting them during onsite inspections. The Final Rule, however, required certain establishments with 250 or more employees and select establishments in high-risk industries with 20 or more employees to electronically submit their 2016 summary Form 300As to OSHA by December 31, 2017. *See* 81 Fed. Reg. at 29625 (as amended by 82 Fed. Reg. 55761, 55764 (Nov. 24, 2017), and further amended by OSHA's press release dated December 18, 2018, https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/trade/12182017).
- 10. For 2017 injury and illness records, these same employers will be required to submit electronically to OSHA information from all OSHA forms (300, 301, and 300A)—not only the summary information included on form 300A—by July 1, 2018. Beginning in 2019 and every year thereafter, the information on all three OSHA forms must be submitted by March 2.
- 11. The Final Rule provides that "OSHA intends to post the establishment-specific injury and illness data it collects under this final rule on its public Web site at www.osha.gov." 81 Fed. Reg. at 29625.

12. On October, 13, 2017, Public Citizen submitted a FOIA request (the October Request) to DOL seeking the records submitted to OSHA under the Final Rule from August 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017. Specifically, Public Citizen sought:

All records submitted to [OSHA] from August 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017, through OSHA's internet-based injury tracking application pursuant to the Final Rule "Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses," 81 Fed. Reg. 29,624 (May 12, 2016), as revised at 81 Fed. Reg. 31,854 (May 20, 2016). The records should include, but are not limited to, electronically submitted information from OSHA Forms 300, 300A, and 301.

- 13. Public Citizen intends to use the work-related injury and illness data submitted to OSHA to conduct research on issues of workplace health and safety.
  - 14. On October 18, 2017, DOL confirmed receipt of the October Request.
- 15. On November 2, 2017, Public Citizen submitted a second FOIA request (the November Request) for the same types of records requested in the October Request, but this time for records submitted from October 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017.
  - 16. On November 6, 2017, DOL confirmed receipt of the November Request.
  - 17. By letter dated November 17, 2017, DOL denied both requests in their entirety.
- 18. DOL's denial letter stated that OSHA had identified 23,416 records of OSHA Form 300A data submitted to the DOL from August 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017. DOL stated that it was withholding the records in their entirety under FOIA exemption 7(E), claiming that release of the records would "disclose OSHA's techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations":

Exemption 7(E) of the FOIA affords protection to all law enforcement information that "would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law." As stated in the preamble to the Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses final rule (see 81 FR 29624), OSHA plans to use the establishment-specific data for enforcement targeting purposes. Disclosure of the

data before and while it is being used to select establishments for inspection would in turn disclose OSHA's techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations. Thus, OSHA has determined the data submitted under the electronic reporting requirements are exempt from disclosure while they are being used for enforcement targeting purposes, and the Agency must deny your request in full.

- 19. DOL further stated that the agency was not collecting Forms 300 or 301 at this time, citing 29 C.F.R. § 1904.41(c)(1).
- 20. By letter dated December 12, 2017, Public Citizen appealed the agency's decision to withhold the Form 300A records under FOIA exemption 7(E). Public Citizen's appeal explained that the records are not exempt under FOIA exemption 7(E) because the records were not compiled for law enforcement purposes, the release of the records would not disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, and disclosure of the records could not reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law.
- 21. Public Citizen has received no response to its appeal and no further correspondence from DOL related to the October Request or November Request. Public Citizen has received no records from DOL in response to these requests.
- 22. Under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(ii), DOL had 20 working days to make a determination with respect to Public Citizen's December 12, 2017, appeal. More than 20 working days have passed since Public Citizen submitted the appeal, and DOL has not done so.
- 23. On December 18, 2017, Public Citizen submitted a third FOIA request (the December Request) for the same types of records from October 31, 2017 to December 18, 2017.
- 24. On December 21, 2017, DOL confirmed receipt of the December Request. Public Citizen has received no further correspondence from DOL related to the December Request. Public Citizen has received from DOL no records in response to December Request.

**CLAIM FOR RELIEF** 

25. Public Citizen has exhausted all administrative remedies with respect to the

October Request, November Request, and December Request.

26. Public Citizen has a statutory right to the records it seeks, and there is no legal basis

for DOL's failure to disclose them.

27. Public Citizen is entitled to declaratory and injunctive relief compelling the release

and disclosure of the requested records in response to the October Request, November Request,

and December Request.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, plaintiff requests that this Court:

A. Declare that defendants' failure to provide the requested records in response to

plaintiff's FOIA requests is unlawful;

B. Order defendants to make the records responsive to plaintiff's FOIA requests

available to plaintiff at no charge;

C. Award plaintiff its costs and reasonable attorney fees; and

D. Grant all other appropriate relief.

Dated: January 19, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sean M. Sherman

Sean M. Sherman (D.C. Bar No. 1046357)

Michael T. Kirkpatrick (D.C. Bar No. 486293)

Public Citizen Litigation Group

1600 20th Street NW

Washington, DC 20009

(202) 588-1000

Counsel for Plaintiff Public Citizen Foundation

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### CIVIL COVER SHEET

JS-44 (Rev. 7/16 DC)  I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDA	NTC					
Public Citizen Foundation			United States Department of Labor; Occupational Safety and Health Administration						
(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST L.  (EXCEPT IN U.S. F		COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT							
(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS			NOTE: IN I		MNATION (	ASES, USE THI	E LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF L	AND INVOLV	ED
Public Citizen Litigation Group 1600 20th Street NW Washington DC, 20009 (202) 588-1000			ATTORNE TO	a anow					*
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)				FOR DEFI	ENDANT		S (PLACE AN x IN ONE ERSITY CASES ONLY!		
	deral Question S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of th	is State	O 1	O1		ated or Principal Place	O 4	O <sub>4</sub>
Defendant (Ir	dicate Citizenship of	Citizen of A	nother State	<b>O</b> 2	<b>O</b> 2	Incorpora	ated and Principal Place	<b>O</b> 5	<b>O</b> 5
Pa		Citizen or S Foreign Cou		<b>O</b> 3	<b>O</b> 3	Foreign 1	Nation	<b>O</b> 6	<b>O</b> 6
(Place an X in one catego	IV. CASE ASSIGN ory, A-N, that best represen						onding Nature of Su	it)	
O A. Antitrust O B. F	Personal Injury/ Ialpractice		C. Adminis Review				O D. Tempora Order/Pro Injunctio	ry Resti elimina	
310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Medical Malpractice 365 Product Liability 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Product Liability		Other Statutes  891 Agricultural Acts  893 Environmental Matters  890 Other Statutory Actions (If		Any nature of suit from any category may be selected for this category of case assignment.  *(If Antitrust, then A governs)*		ory of			
O E. General Civil (Other)	OR		F. Pro	Se Gen	eral C	ivil			
Real Property 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent, Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property  Personal Property 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability	Bankruptcy   422 Appeal 27 USC 158   423 Withdrawal 28 USC   423 Withdrawal 28 USC   423 Withdrawal 28 USC   423 Withdrawal 28 USC   535 Death Penalty   540 Mandamus & Othe   550 Civil Rights   555 Prison Conditions   560 Civil Detainee - Coof Confinement   Property Rights   820 Copyrights   830 Patent   840 Trademark   Federal Tax Suits   870 Taxes (US plaintiff defendant)	er onditions	Other St: 375 376 400 430 450 460 462	Drug Rel Property Other	ated Sei 21 USC  sims Act (31 USC  apportion  Bankin  ce/ICC  ion  zation  ion	Conment	470 Racketeer & Corrupt 480 Consumer 490 Cable/Sate 850 Securities/6 Exchange 896 Arbitration 899 Administra Act/Review Agency Dec 950 Constitutio Statutes 890 Other State (if not adm review or F	Organiza Credit Ilite TV Commodi  tive Proce or Appe cision onality of utory Act inistrativ	ation ities/ cedure al of State ions e agency

#### Case 1:18-cv-00117 Document 1-1 Filed 01/19/18 Page 2 of 2

O G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255	O H. Employment Discrimination	O I. FOIA/Privacy Act	O J. Student Loan		
530 Habeas Corpus – General 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation)	X 895 Freedom of Information Act 890 Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act)  *(If pro se, select this deck)*	152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)		
0	*(If pro se, select this deck)*		0		
O K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment)  710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 740 Labor Railway Act 751 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	L. Other Civil Rights (non-employment)  441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act)  443 Housing/Accommodations  440 Other Civil Rights  445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment  446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other  448 Education	M. Contract  110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholder's Suits 190 Other Contracts 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	O N. Three-Judge Court  441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)		
V. ORIGIN					
O 1 Original Proceeding From State Court C					
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.) FOIA, 5 USC 552. Defendants withheld records.					
VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23  DEMAND S  JURY DEMAND:  Check YES only if demanded in complaint YES  NO  X					
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instruction) YES	NO X If yes, p	lease complete related case form		
DATE:1/19/2018	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF REC	CORD hall			

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil cover sheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I. COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed only if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the <u>primary</u> cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only <u>one</u> category. You <u>must</u> also select <u>one</u> corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI. CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk's Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.

Public Citizen Foundation	
Plaintiff	)
v.	) Civil Action No.
United States Department of Labor, et al.	
Defendant	)
SUMMO	ONS IN A CIVIL ACTION
U.S. Departi 950 Pennsyl	neral of the United States ment of Justice Ivania Ave., NW , DC 20530-0001
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached	amons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of e served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and up
If you fail to respond, judgment by defa complaint. You also must file your answer or r	ault may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the motion with the court.
	ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT
Date:	
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No.

### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

was re	This summons for (nan ceived by me on (date)	ne of individual and title, if any)			
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the individual a	at (place)		
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence or u	· —	1 4	
			of suitable age and discretion who resid		
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to t	he individual's last known address; or		
		ons on (name of individual)		, who i	S
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on beha	If of (name of organization)		
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		; 0	r
	☐ Other ( <i>specify</i> ):				
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00	
	I declare under penalty	of perjury that this information	is true.		
Date:					
			Server's signature		
			Printed name and title		
			Server's address		-

Public Citizen Foundation	
Plaintiff	
v.	) Civil Action No.
United States Department of Labor, et al.	)
Defendant	)
SUMMO	NS IN A CIVIL ACTION
	y for the District of Columbia s Attorney's Office et NW
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached	mons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of e served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and
If you fail to respond, judgment by defar complaint. You also must file your answer or n	ult may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the notion with the court.
	ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT
Date:	
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No.

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(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (nan	ne of individual and title, if any)				
was re	ceived by me on (date)					
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the individual a	at (place)			
	on (date) ;					
	☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence or u	usual place of abode with (name)			
		, a person o	of suitable age and discretion who resid	des there	,	
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to	the individual's last known address; or			
	☐ I served the summo	ons on (name of individual)			, who is	
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on beha	alf of (name of organization)			
			on (date)			
	☐ I returned the sumr	mons unexecuted because			; or	
	☐ Other (specify):					
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0	.00 .	
			• .			
	I declare under penalty	y of perjury that this information	is true.			
Date:			Server's signature			
			Printed name and title			
			Server's address			

Public Citizen Foundation	
Plaintiff	
v.	) Civil Action No.
United States Department of Labor, et al.	)
Defendant	)
SUMMO	NS IN A CIVIL ACTION
	s Department of Labor tion Ave., NW DC 20210
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
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	☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence or u	· —	1 4	
			of suitable age and discretion who resid		
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to t	he individual's last known address; or		
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	designated by law to a	accept service of process on beha	If of (name of organization)		
			on (date)	; or	
	☐ I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		; 0	r
	☐ Other ( <i>specify</i> ):				
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00	
	I declare under penalty	of perjury that this information	is true.		
Date:					
			Server's signature		
			Printed name and title		
			Server's address		-

Public Citizen Foundation	)
Plaintiff	)
v.	) Civil Action No.
United States Department of Labor, et al.	)
Defendant	)
SUMMO	ONS IN A CIVIL ACTION
	al Safety and Health Administration ution Ave., NW , DC 20210
A lawsuit has been filed against you.	
serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached	mons on you (not counting the day you received it) you must complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of e served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and
If you fail to respond, judgment by defar complaint. You also must file your answer or n	ult may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the motion with the court.
	ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT
Date:	
<del></del>	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No.

### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

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was re	ceived by me on (date)					
	☐ I personally served	the summons on the individual a	at (place)			
	on (date) ;					
	☐ I left the summons	at the individual's residence or u	usual place of abode with (name)			
		, a person o	of suitable age and discretion who resid	des there	,	
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to	the individual's last known address; or			
	☐ I served the summo	ons on (name of individual)			, who is	
	designated by law to a	accept service of process on beha	alf of (name of organization)			
			on (date)			
	☐ I returned the sumr	mons unexecuted because			; or	
	☐ Other (specify):					
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0	.00 .	
			• .			
	I declare under penalty	y of perjury that this information	is true.			
Date:			Server's signature			
			Printed name and title			
			Server's address			