

[USGS Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Water Science Center](#)
[Seminar Series](#)

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Overview of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Q&A Session

Brian May, USGS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer,
USGS MD-DE-DC Water Science Center, Baltimore, Maryland



Congress enacted the FOIA on July 4, 1966, for the purpose of providing the public access to Executive Branch records. The FOIA is a means for citizens to know what their

Government is up to. In Fiscal Year 2015, the USGS received and processed a record number of FOIA requests, covering all Mission Areas and Regions. Additionally, the USGS was sued twice for how we processed FOIA requests. This presentation will shed some light on the law, how it relates to USGS records, and highlight some of the challenges that USGS faces while trying to balance the scientific process and FOIA's requirement of transparency.

For more information, visit: <http://www.usgs.gov/foia/>

About Brian:

Brian started working for the USGS in July 2014, as the bureau's FOIA Officer. Prior to joining the USGS, Brian worked as a senior Government Information Specialist at the Social Security Administration, in Woodlawn, MD and was the U.S. Army's Research, Development and Engineering Command's FOIA Officer at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. Brian holds a B.S. in Legal Studies from the University of Maryland University College. Brian has over 18 years of paralegal experience and over 6 years of FOIA Officer experience.

This presentation will also be available remotely via Webex:

<https://usgs.webex.com/usgs/j.php?MTID=m3c056212de78c6963fa9d53ad1f482f6>
Call 703-648-4848 Code 39026#