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[Records on Oil, Gas, and Energy Policy](#)

FOIA Number: 2011-1613-F

Scope and Content Note:

The materials in FOIA 2011-1614-F[1] and FOIA 2011-1613-F[2] are a selective, not necessarily all inclusive, body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. FOIA 2011-1614-F[1] contains materials related to Vice President Bush's stance on oil and gas price stabilization as well as his trip to the Middle East. The Staff and Office Files contain routine government forms, letters, memos, lists, papers, reports, 2011-1614-F 2 newspaper and magazine articles, press releases, briefing books, fact sheets, and a map maintained by individual staff members and offices. The routine government forms are Office of the Vice President Staffing Memoranda and Correspondence Tracking Worksheets. These documents record information such as correspondents' details, subjects addressed, dates received, staff members' routing instructions, and actions taken. The correspondence held in this collection cover memos and letters between administration officials and private citizens. The main topics of discussion are primarily deregulation of oil and gas prices or extensive commentary on Vice President Bush's trip to the Persian Gulf area. Other correspondence addressed proposed rulemaking, meetings with oil service industry representatives, and reorganization of the Department of Energy. The lists include names and duty stations of support personnel who traveled to the Middle East with Vice President Bush. Also present are lists of private citizens who attended meetings with Vice President Bush to discuss national energy issues. Multiple papers are included in this collection and cover several topics such as Vice President Bush's trip to the Persian Gulf, copies of the Congressional Record addressing petroleum pipeline regulatory reform, analyses on proposed rules by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Vice President Bush's stance on a national energy policy. The reports focus on oil and gas policy, pricing, regulation, domestic and world markets, competition, energy projections, and development of a superconducting super collider. Many constituents sent copies of newspaper and magazine articles to Vice President Bush because of their concerns about domestic businesses and loss of jobs. They also sent op-ed pieces criticizing Vice President Bush for speaking out against the continued drop in oil prices. Other clippings support Vice President Bush's stand on oil price supports, comment on the Saudi oil pricing system, predict oil shortages, and discuss natural gas decontrols. Press materials include briefings by administration officials regarding the domestic and international energy situation are present, as well as a kit addressing President Reagan's proposed energy revitalization program. The briefing books were assembled for Vice President and Mrs. Bush's trip to the Middle East. They contain many travel-related documents such as schedules, contact sheets, lists of travelers, and scenarios. The fact sheets outline Vice President Bush's stance on oil policy and contain quotes made by him. Finally, a map illustrating petroleum pipeline capacities is present. FOIA 2011-1613-F[2] contains records related to the oil spill in the Prince William Sound area of Alaska caused by the grounding of the Exxon Valdez. These documents address the cleanup and recovery efforts, federal disaster relief options, courthouse hearings, and proposed legislation in response to the incident. 2011-1613-F[2] 2 The Bush Presidential White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Alphabetical Files contain letters primarily sent to President Bush by private citizens. Topics include cleanup of the oil spill, contingency plans for oil spills in general, pending oil spill liability and compensation legislation, proposals for handling the petroleum waste, and Exxon's proposed compensation package. Replies to this correspondence are also included. In addition, many government forms are present that track the correspondence by logging in subjects, routing information, actions taken, and disposition. There are also some memos between staffers and between administration officials transmitting correspondence for replies. Also present are some copies of journal articles about the federal plan to clean up the oil spill. The Bush Presidential WHORM Subject Files contain material essentially similar to that held in the Alphabetical Files. There is also a transcript of U.S. Coast Guard testimony before the House of Representatives on oil spill liability legislation. The Bush Presidential Staff and Office Files also contain letters and the corresponding government forms. There are also numerous memos between administration officials detailing their observations of the clean up area, background information about the spill, proposed date for President Bush's visit to the area, oil pollution compensation legislation, assessment of damages to natural resources as determined by the natural resource trustees, federal disaster relief options, and state of the national energy supply following the incident. Staffer's notes recording congressional votes on legislation and particulars of the case against Exxon are included in this collection. Several lists are present that detail key companies and personnel involved in the cleanup operation, vessels and equipment deployed, state oil spill liability, and compensation statutes. Numerous papers are present that cover a wide variety of topics: incident summary notes, duty officer's log sheets, standards comparing strict liability versus simple negligence, global plan and media strategy to prevent and/or prepare for future incidents, Exxon's plan to respond to the Valdez spill, testimony by an administration official before the Senate Committee on Commerce Science and Transportation, written testimony and oral statement by an Exxon vice president on the water and shoreline conditions in Prince William Sound, and an oil spill economic impact study. Of particular note is a memorandum of agreement among the state of Alaska, Department of Agriculture, Department of Interior and Department of Commerce outlining the coordination necessary to clean the oil spill. Unclassified Coast Guard cables detail site conditions, assistance deployment, duties, and recovery estimates for the Prince William Sound area during cleanup efforts. E-mails of media stories describing the grounding, recovery efforts, and court testimony are also present. Press briefings and releases detail President Bush's directive to restore the area around Prince William Sound, cleanup updates, and Exxon's commentary on the oil spill and its aftermath. There are many published materials in the collection including newspaper articles about the Valdez grounding, recovery efforts, environmental issues, effects on the citizens and their livelihoods, and proposed legislation as a result of the oil spill. There are also multiple publications from the American Petroleum Institute, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Federal Register, and National Response Team. Lastly, numerous maps illustrate the affected areas of Prince William Sound.

Processed by: Staff Archivists, November 2013. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.