

Exhibit A



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

March 4, 2019

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Ms. Irene Gutierrez
Natural Resources Defense Council
111 Sutter Street, 21st Fl.
San Francisco, CA 94104

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request No. EPA-HQ-2018-010465, Interim Response

Dear Ms. Gutierrez:

This letter is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) on August 10, 2018, in which you requested records relating to EPA's OMEGA Model. On December 3, 2018, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) filed a complaint in the Southern District of New York relating to this FOIA request. On December 28, 2018, NRDC filed a Motion to Expedite and Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, seeking "the latest full version of the OMEGA model and inputs." On February 11, 2019, EPA responded to NRDC's Motion, estimating that the agency would be able to respond to NRDC's request for priority records by March 4, 2019. This is that response.

The Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) has concluded its search for records responsive to your priority request and is providing a portion of the requested records. EPA is releasing in full all the latest available input files for the latest full version of the OMEGA model (version 1.4.59) and is also releasing the latest available ALPHA inputs, including EPA benchmarking data. Other EPA benchmarking test data packages are posted on the EPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/vehicle-and-fuel-emissions-testing/benchmarking-advanced-low-emission-light-duty-vehicle-technology#test-data>. EPA is withholding the latest full version of the OMEGA model itself (version 1.4.59) pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), the Deliberative Process Privilege. The model is exempt from disclosure because it is predecisional and deliberative and would harm agency decision making if released.

If you have any questions concerning this response please contact Tanya Meekins of my staff at 202-564-6002.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Hengst".

Benjamin Hengst
Associate Office Director
Office of Transportation and Air Quality