

November 7, 2008

By e-mail to [RegComments@fhfa.gov](mailto:RegComments@fhfa.gov)

Alfred M. Pollard, General Counsel (OFHEO)  
Christopher Curtis, General Counsel (FHFB)  
Federal Housing Finance Agency  
Fourth Floor, 1700 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20552

Attn: Comments/RIN 2590-AA05

Re: Federal Housing Finance Agency Proposed Rule: Freedom of Information Act  
RIN 2590-AA05

Dear Messrs. Pollard and Curtis:

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka (FHLBank Topeka) is pleased to submit comments on the proposed rule regarding the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) published in the *Federal Register* October 10, 2008.

FHLBank Topeka agrees with the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) as to most of the procedures proposed to implement FOIA for the FHFA. However, we have one particular concern with the response timeline for “standard track” requests.

Section 1202.7 states that the FHFA will assign requests to the “standard track” when the requests are “routine and require little or no search time, review, or analysis” and the FHFA will then respond to standard track requests within 20 days. “Days” are defined in section 1202.2 as “working days.” Therefore, the FHFA would only be required to respond to “standard track” requests, which are “routine and require little or no search time, review, or analysis,” within approximately four weeks or one month of receipt of the request.

The current Federal Housing Finance Board FOIA rule also has a time limit of 20 working days, but this covers *all* requests, including complex ones. While FHLBank Topeka understands the substantial workload of the FHFA and recognizes the difficulty and time involved in responding to requests assigned to the “complex track,” FHLBank Topeka believes that 10 working days (or two full weeks) should provide ample time to respond to a “standard track” request that is “routine and require[s] little or no search time, review, or analysis.”

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Therefore, FHLBank Topeka suggests that the response time for “standard track” requests be shortened to 10 working days. We believe this will best satisfy the twin objectives of providing needed information within a reasonable timeframe while allowing ample time to the FHFA to respond to routine requests.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of our comments, please call me at (785) 438-6054.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick C. Doran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Patrick C. Doran  
Senior Vice President and  
General Counsel