



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

226 VACANCIES?

DID THEY REALLY SAY THAT?

(October 31, 2017) In a recent Washington Post article, "Down hundreds of staff, 'Weather Service teetering on the brink of failure,' labor union says" (October 26, 2017), the NWS claimed that there were only 226 vacancies and that Congress had appropriated funds for only 4453 positions.

On November 14, 2016 NWSEO filed a Freedom of Information Act request with NOAA which asked for "the total number of vacancies; the number of employees on board; and the FY 16 authorized and appropriated levels" for each NOAA line office. Attached is a copy of NOAA's February 28, 2017 official response. According to the chart provided, as of November 1, 2016 there were 5048 total authorized and appropriated positions in the NWS (including 174 reimbursable from other agencies, like the FAA). Out of that number, there were 643 total vacancies. Other documents received by the NWSEO show there has been approximately another 60 vacancies in bargaining unit positions alone since November 2016.

The FOIA response is attached within this *Four Winds* member newsletter.

-NWSEO-

No one cares more for National Weather Service employees
than National Weather Service employees.

No one works harder for National Weather Service employees
than National Weather Service employees.

We are NWSEO.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Workforce Management Office
1305 East West Highway, Room 12434
Silver Spring, MD 20910

FEB 28 2017

via USPS & FOIAonline

Mr. Richard J. Hirn, Esq.
5335 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 440
Washington DC 20015

Re: FOIA Request No. DOC-NOAA-2017-000303

Dear Mr. Hirn:

This letter is in reference to your FOIA request for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) vacancy report dated on or about November 1, 2016.

We have located a 1-page of responsive record. You are granted full access to that record, which is enclosed and also uploaded in FOIAonline for your convenience. Your request is now completed.

You have the right to file an administrative appeal if you are not satisfied with our response to your FOIA request. An appeal must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter. Your appeal may be sent by e-mail to FOIAAppeals@doc.gov, by facsimile (fax) to 202-482-2552, or by FOIAonline, if you have an account, at <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov>. To appeal by mail, please send to:

Assistant General Counsel for Litigation, Employment, and Oversight
U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of General Counsel
14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 5875
Washington, D.C. 20230

For your appeal to be complete, it must include the following items: a copy of the original request, our response to your request, your statement explaining why our response was in error. "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" must appear on your appeal letter. It should also be written on your envelope, e-mail subject line, or your fax cover sheet. We receive correspondence only on business days from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time. FOIA appeals received outside of our normal business hours will be deemed received on the next business day.

You may also contact NOAA's FOIA Public Liaison for assistance Robert Swisher at 301-628-5755, or seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) via <https://ogis.archives.gov/>.

If you choose not to appeal, but have any questions about the way we handled your request, or about our FOIA regulations or procedures, please contact me at 301-713-6361 or karen.robin@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KRobin', written in a cursive style.

Karen Robin
WFMO FOIA Liaison

Enclosure

Vacancy Report - As of 1 November 2016

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F	Column G	Column H
LO/SO	Vacant Positions Available (D - C)	Onboard Positions* (As of 10/23/16)	FY16 Authorized Positions (PB Enacted) (E + F)	FY16 Appropriated Positions (Enacted)**	FY16 Reimbursable & Fee-Funded Positions (Enacted)**	Hiring Actions In Process (As of 10/30/16)	Current Staffing Level Percentage (C / D)
NWS	643	4405	5048	4874	174	277	87%
NMFS	476	2928	3404	3093	311	257	86%
NOS	279	1085	1364	1279	85	72	80%
NESDIS	175	759	934	889	45	58	81%
OAR	139	689	828	775	53	30	83%
OMAO***	40	642	682	681	1	14	94%
SO/USEC	-5	977	972	935	37	97	101%
Grand Total	1747	11485	13232	12526	706	805	87%

* Data Source: As of 23Oct16 - NFC pulled 2Nov16

** Data Source: NOAA FY16 Budget (Enacted)

*** Note: 321 Commission Corps positions not included

Vacancies are current and do not include estimate future attrition