



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

FEB 4 2020

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, N.W.
Suite B255
Washington, D.C. 20005

Via email: hart.wood@americanoversight.org

Re: HQ-2019-01236-F
HQ-2020-00053-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the final response for information requested in HQ-2019-01236-F and a first partial response for information requested in HQ-2020-00053-F that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. In HQ-2019-01236-F, you requested:

All communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations, text messages, or messages on messaging platforms— such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Twitter Direct Messages, or Facebook Messenger) or calendar entries involving (a) Secretary Rick Perry, or anyone serving on his behalf including Chiefs of Staff, assistants, or schedulers, and (b) Michael Bleyzer, Natasha Bleyzer, anyone communicating on their behalf, or anyone associated with SigmaBleyzer (sigmableyzer.com).

Please provide all responsive records from March 2, 2017, through the date the search is conducted.

As Ms. Rachel Fellows of this office confirmed in an email on August 14, 2019, you instructed DOE to search any email records in the to, from, copy, and blind copy fields for the following two (2) terms:

- “Bleyzer” OR
- “sigmableyzer.com”

As Ms. Fellows confirmed in the same email, you also agreed to establish a comprehensive list of DOE employees for this request, to be comprised of the following individuals: Secretary Perry, Chief of Staff Brian McCormack, Luke Wallwork, and Stan Gerdes.



Finally, as Ms. Fellows also confirmed in the same email, you agreed to limit this request to only emails, email attachments, and Outlook calendar records. You agreed to exclude the various other types of non-email records that were listed in the original request submission (including “text messages, or messages on messaging platforms— such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, WhatsApp, Twitter Direct Messages, or Facebook Messenger”).

In HQ-2020-00053-F, you requested:

All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (a) the DOE officials specified below and (b) any of external individuals or organizations listed below.

Specified DOE Officials:

- i. Secretary Rick Perry
- ii. Deputy Secretary Dan Brouillette
- iii. Former Chief of Staff Brian McCormack
- iv. Anyone currently serving in the capacity of Chief of Staff
- v. Under Secretary Mark Menezes
- vi. Samuel Buchan, Special Adviser
- vii. William Cooper, General Counsel
- viii. Paul Tumminia, Senior Advisor, Office of Russian and Eurasian Affairs
- ix. Anyone serving in the capacity of White House Advisor or Liaison

External individuals and entities:

- i. Naftogaz, including anyone with an email address ending in naftogaz.com or naftogaz-europe.com
- ii. Andrew Favorov
- iii. Igor Fruman
- iv. Lev Parnas
- v. Harry Sargeant III
- vi. 45 Energy Group, including anyone with an email address ending in 45energygroup.com
- vii. Healy Baumgardner
- viii. SigmaBleyzer, including anyone with an email address ending in sigmableyzer.com
- ix. The Bleyzer Foundation, including anyone with an email address ending in bleyzerfoundation.org
- x. Michael Bleyzer
- xi. Robert Bensh, including anyone with an email address ending in

robertbensh.net or robertbensh.org

Please produce all responsive records from January 1, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.

Both requests were assigned to DOE's Office of the Executive Secretariat (ES) to conduct a search of its files for responsive documents.

For HQ-2019-01236-F, DOE started its search on August 19, 2019, which is the cut-off date for responsive documents. For HQ-2020-00053-F, DOE started its search on November 27, 2019, which is the cut-off date for responsive documents. At this time, DOE has identified eighteen (18) documents responsive to your request.

Upon review, it was noted that certain documents contained equities from the International Trade Administration (ITA). These documents have been redacted in part for review by ITA. All other documents are being released to you as described in the accompanying index.

Upon review, DOE has determined that certain information should be withheld in the documents pursuant to Exemptions 4 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4) and (b)(6).

Exemption 4 of the FOIA protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). This exemption is intended to protect the interests of both the Government and submitters of information. Exemption 4 affords protection to submitters who provide trade secrets, or commercial or financial information to the Government by safeguarding them from the competitive disadvantages that could result from disclosure. The exemption covers two broad categories of information in Federal agency records: 1) trade secrets, and 2) information that is (a) commercial or financial and (b) obtained from a person, and (c) privileged and confidential.

The information withheld under Exemption 4 includes sensitive commercial and financial information that is maintained in confidence by the submitters and is not available in public sources. The proprietary information withheld includes descriptions of business strategies and information that would reveal the identities of certain clients and investors in violation of the submitters' duty of confidentiality or contractual obligations. Furthermore, disclosure may curtail companies from providing such information to the government in the future. For these reasons, this information is being withheld.

Exemption 6 generally is referred to as the "personal privacy" exemption; it provides that the disclosure requirements of FOIA do not apply to "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). In applying Exemption 6, DOE considered: 1) whether a significant privacy interest would be invaded; 2) whether the release of the information would further the public interest by shedding light on the operations or activities of the Government; and 3) whether in balancing the privacy interests against the public interest, disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.

The information withheld under Exemption 6 consists of mobile phone numbers, and personal matters or information of a personal nature. This information qualifies as “similar files” because it is information in which an individual has a privacy interest. Moreover, releasing the information could subject the individual to unwarranted or unsolicited communications. Since no public interest would be served by disclosing this information, and since there is a viable privacy interest that would be threatened by such disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes withholding the information. Therefore, we have determined that the public interest in the information’s release does not outweigh the overriding privacy interests in keeping it confidential, and this information is being withheld under Exemption 6.

This satisfies the standard set forth at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A) that agencies shall withhold information under FOIA “only if (I) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption . . . ; or (II) disclosure is prohibited by law” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A) also provides that whenever full disclosure of a record is not possible, agencies shall “consider whether partial disclosure of information is possible” Thus, we have determined that, in certain instances, a partial disclosure is proper.

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(b)(2), I am the individual responsible for the determination to withhold the information described above. The FOIA requires that “any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be provided to any person requesting such record after deletion of the portions which are exempt.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). As a result, redacted versions of the documents are being released to you in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(b)(3).

The FOIA provides for the assessment of fees for the processing of requests. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(i); *see also* 10 C.F.R. § 1004.9(a). In our August 15 and October 16, 2019, letters, you were informed that your requests were placed in the “other” category for fee purposes. Requesters in this category are entitled to two (2) free hours of search time and are provided 100 pages at no cost. DOE’s processing costs did not exceed \$15.00, the minimum amount at which DOE assesses fees. Thus, no fees will be charged for processing your requests.

If you have any questions about the processing of this request or this letter, you may contact Hilarie Snyder, Trial Attorney, at Hilarie.E.Snyder@usdoj.gov or at (202) 305-0747.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexander C. Morris

Alexander C. Morris
FOIA Officer
Office of Public Information

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Request #: HQ-2019-01236-F
HQ-2020-00053-F

Final response for request from Mr. Austin Evers for HQ-2019-01236-F:

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Please provide all responsive records from March 2, 2017, through the date the search is conducted.

As Ms. Rachel Fellows of this office confirmed in an email on August 14, 2019, you instructed DOE to search any email records in the to, from, copy, and blind copy fields for the following two (2) terms:

- “Bleyzer” OR**
- “sigmableyzer.com”**

As Ms. Fellows confirmed in the same email, you also agreed to establish a comprehensive list of DOE employees for this request, to be comprised of the following individuals: Secretary Perry, Chief of Staff Brian McCormack, Luke Wallwork, and Stan Gerdes.

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Final response for request from Mr. Austin Evers for HQ-2020-00053-F:

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- vi. Samuel Buchan, Special Adviser**
- vii. William Cooper, General Counsel**
- viii. Paul Tumminia, Senior Advisor, Office of Russian and Eurasian Affairs**
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- iii. Igor Fruman**
- iv. Lev Parnas**
- v. Harry Sargeant III**
- vi. 45 Energy Group, including anyone with an email address ending in 45energygroup.com**
- vii. Healy Baumgardner**
- viii. SigmaBleyzer, including anyone with an email address ending in sigmableyzer.com**
- ix. The Bleyzer Foundation, including anyone with an email address ending in bleyzerfoundation.org**
- x. Michael Bleyzer**
- xi. Robert Bensh, including anyone with an email address ending in robertbensh.net or robertbensh.org**

Please produce all responsive records from January 1, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.

DOE's Office of the Executive Secretariat (ES) has completed its search and has located eighteen (18) documents responsive to your request.

- *One (1) document is being transferred in its entirety to the International Trade Administration (ITA), therefore, I have transferred this document to ITA for processing and direct response to you.*
- *Seven (7) documents are being released in their entirety.*
- *Three (3) documents are being released in part pursuant to Exemption (b)(4).*
- *Seven (7) documents are being released in part pursuant to Exemption (b)(6).*



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

FEB 04 2020

Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

Via email: hart.wood@americanoversight.org

Re: HQ-2020-00012-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is a partial response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You requested:

1. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (1) Secretary Rick Perry, Chief of Staff Brian McCormack, or anyone else who traveled on DOE's delegation to the Ukraine in May 2019 and (2) Rudolph Giuliani, Sam Kislin, Victoria Toensing, or Joseph diGenova.
2. All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations, calendar entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) of Secretary Rick Perry or Chief of Staff Brian McCormack (1) any plan by Rudolph Giuliani, Sam Kislin, Victoria Toensing, and/or Joseph diGenova to travel to Ukraine or to communicate with Ukrainian government officials or future Ukrainian government officials and/or (2) any other effort to encourage the Ukrainian government to investigate any matter related to former Vice President Joseph Biden or his son Hunter Biden.

Please provide all responsive records from January 1, 2019, through the date the search is conducted.



Please exclude news clips or mass mailer generated from non-governmental services and emails distributed to a wide listserv of twenty or more email addresses. However, a news clips or mass mailer email that is forwarded to or from Chief of Staff McCormack with any additional message should be considered responsive.

Your request was assigned to DOE's Office of the Executive Secretariat (ES) to conduct a search of its files for responsive documents. ES started its search on November 22, 2019, which is the cut-off date for responsive documents. ES with the assistance of the Office of the Chief Information Office, has completed its search of relevant email accounts, but did not locate any documents responsive to your request.

The FOIA provides for the assessment of fees for the processing of requests. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(i); *see also* 10 C.F.R. § 1004.9(a). In your letter, you requested a waiver of any fees associated with the processing of your request. In our October 7, 2019 letter, you were informed that your request for a fee waiver had been granted, thus no fees will be charged for processing your request.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request or this letter, your attorney may contact Hilarie Snyder, Trial Attorney, at Hilarie.E.Snyder@usdoj.gov or 202-305-0747.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

Alexander C. Morris

Alexander C. Morris
FOIA Officer
Office of Public Information

Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 2:04 PM
To: Yuzon, Andrea
Cc: McCormack, Brian
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Friday morning

Sorry Andrea. I have not received them yet. I do not have my laptop with me. iPhone has limited access to spam folder, if it ended up there.

Thanks a lot.

MB

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 14, 2019, at 4:52 PM, Yuzon, Andrea <Andrea.Yuzon@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

>

> Hi Michael,

>

> I sent you the details in a separate email. I will resend to you momentarily.

>

> Thanks,

> Andrea

>

> --

>

> Andrea Yuzon

> Office of the Secretary

> US Department of Energy

> 202-586-1448 | andrea.yuzon@hq.doe.gov

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Bleyzer, Michael [mailto:mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com]

> Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 4:51 PM

> To: McCormack, Brian <Brian.Mccormack@hq.doe.gov>

> Cc: Yuzon, Andrea <Andrea.Yuzon@hq.doe.gov>

> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Friday morning

>

> Brian,

> I have not received any details for the meeting tomorrow. Should we just be at the DOE at 9 am tomorrow?

> Thanks.

> MB

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Feb 13, 2019, at 6:47 PM, Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com> wrote:

>>

>> Thanks Brian.

>> MB

>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>>> On Feb 13, 2019, at 5:41 PM, McCormack, Brian <Brian.Mccormack@hq.doe.gov> wrote:
>>>
>>> Michael,
>>>
>>> Andrea, copied here, will get you and others cleared in and provide directions.
>>>
>>> Andrea, the other guests will be Tan Parker and Morgan Williams.
>
>
> *****
> This message does not originate from a known Department of Energy email system.
> Use caution if this message contains attachments, links or requests for information.
>
> *****
>

This message does not originate from a known Department of Energy email system.
Use caution if this message contains attachments, links or requests for information.

From: Buchan, Samuel
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:16 AM
To: McCormack, Brian; Garrish, Theodore; Horn, Andrew; Uddo, Joe
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: PSA tenders approved!

So from what I've gathered this has to do with the approval of specific terms of the PSAs, not about their application to any one company. It sounds like SB is praising their success in convincing the government to include favorable terms for the selection criteria (this is what SB has been arguing in favor of for some time now).

It seems that the Government of Ukraine is going to publicize the details of the PSAs, likely today. The embassy doesn't think they will be attractive to any of the majors though.

Once this is announced it kicks off a 90-day period of selections.

I'll keep tracking and update the group once I find the specifics of the PSAs.

From: McCormack, Brian
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 6:07 AM
To: Garrish, Theodore <Theodore.Garrish@hq.doe.gov>; Horn, Andrew <Andrew.Horn@hq.doe.gov>; Uddo, Joe <Joe.Uddo@hq.doe.gov>; Buchan, Samuel <Samuel.Buchan@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: PSA tenders approved!

FYI

Sam- please see if others got PSA. Thanks.

From: Yovanovitch, Marie L. (Kyiv) <YovanovitchML2@state.gov>
Date: Monday, Feb 25, 2019, 3:22 AM
To: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>, Alex Cranberg <acranberg@aspectenergy.com>, bsaathoff@aspectenergy.com <bsaathoff@aspectenergy.com>, mpeffer@aspectenergy.com <mpeffer@aspectenergy.com>, Lora Mays <lmays@aspectenergy.com>, Parker, Tan <tparker@sigmableyzer.com>, Bleyzer, Lev <lbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>, Morgan Williams <mwilliams@sigmableyzer.com>, cames@aspectenergy.com <cames@aspectenergy.com>, scanaday@aspectenergy.com <scanaday@aspectenergy.com>
Cc: O'Malley, Ryan <rdomalley@sigmableyzer.com>, Sigda Neal <nsigda@sigmableyzer.com>, Segura, Edi L. <elsegura@sigmableyzer.com>, Alina Bodaeva <abodaeva@sigmableyzer.com.ua>, Hunt, Martin <mthunt@kslaw.com>, Brown, Tucker A (Kyiv) <BrownTA@state.gov>, Schutte, John P (Kyiv) <SchutteJP@state.gov>, Kent, George P <KentGP@state.gov>, Eric Rasmussen <erasmusse@ebird.com>, McCormack, Brian <Brian.Mccormack@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: PSA tenders approved!

Great news! Congratulations!

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 9:36 AM
To: Alex Cranberg; bsaathoff@aspectenergy.com; mpeffer@aspectenergy.com; Lora Mays; Parker, Tan; Bleyzer, Lev; Morgan Williams; cames@aspectenergy.com; scanaday@aspectenergy.com

Cc: O'Malley, Ryan; Sigda Neal; Segura, Edi L.; Alina Bodaeva; Hunt, Martin; Yovanovitch, Marie L (Kyiv); Brown, Tucker A (Kyiv); Schutte, John P (Kyiv); Kent, George P; Eric Rasmussen; brian.mccormack@hq.doe.gov
Subject: PSA tenders approved!

We've got it!

10 min ago the interagency committee gave the final approval for PSA tenders.

The vote was 10:0 to approve without any changes. This is a major victory for Ukraine and progressive forces trying to open up Ukrainian oil& gas market.

Huge thanks goes to SigmaBleyzer energy team and Aspect Energy team. And of course we could not have done it without tremendous help from the US Embassy, State Department, DOE, EBRD and others.

Thank you all.

MB

Sent from my iPhone

Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: McCormack, Brian
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2017 6:27 AM
To: Bleyzer, Michael
Subject: RE: touching base

Sir,

Today would be great. Thanks.

Brian

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Date: Friday, Jul 21, 2017, 9:57 PM
To: McCormack, Brian <Brian.Mccormack@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: touching base

Hi Brian. I am in Ukraine at the moment. Will be flying to Washington on Sunday. I can call you tomorrow afternoon (Saturday) my time which will be in the morning for you. Will that work for you?

All the best.

MB

Sent from my iPhone 6s+

> On Jul 22, 2017, at 1:03 AM, McCormack, Brian <Brian.Mccormack@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

>

> Sir,

>

> We haven't met but hope to next week when you're in Washington. I am Sec Perry's Chief of Staff and would like to connect with you about a few items.

>

> My cell number is (b) (6) . Thank you.

>

> Brian

Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: McCormack, Brian
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2017 7:21 AM
To: Bleyzer, Michael
Subject: RE: touching base

Sir,

Thank you for your time this morning. I look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Please do not hesitate to call or reach out should you need to visit.

Safe travels.

Best,
Brian

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Date: Friday, Jul 21, 2017, 9:57 PM
To: McCormack, Brian <Brian.Mccormack@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: touching base

Hi Brian. I am in Ukraine at the moment. Will be flying to Washington on Sunday. I can call you tomorrow afternoon (Saturday) my time which will be in the morning for you. Will that work for you?

All the best.

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Sent from my iPhone 6s+

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> My cell number is (b) (6) . Thank you.

>

> Brian

Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2017 2:11 PM
To: Jones, Susanne
Cc: McCormack, Brian
Subject: Re: DOE Meeting/7/24

Thank you very much.
MB

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 22, 2017, at 11:59 PM, Jones, Susanne <Susanne.Jones@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

Wonderful. Thanks Michael. We're located at 1000 independence Ave SW. When you enter the lobby go check into VIP. They will have a badge waiting and will call me to escort you up. See you soon.

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Date: Friday, Jul 21, 2017, 10:46 PM
To: Jones, Susanne <Susanne.Jones@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: DOE Meeting/7/24

Hi Susanne,
I have a short meeting at 9:30 that morning but not too far from your office. So, 10:30 am with Brian should work fine. I'll be there.
Thanks.
MB

Sent from my iPhone 6s+

> On Jul 22, 2017, at 12:05 AM, Jones, Susanne <Susanne.Jones@hq.doe.gov> wrote:
>
> Hi Michael -
>
> My name is Susanne and I work with our COS, Brian McCormack. I understand you will be meeting with Wells and Andrea on Monday at 11 am. Brian was hoping to meet with you separately beforehand. Would you be available to meet with Brian at 10:30 am ? Thank you!
>
>
>
> Susanne Hudson Jones
> Office of the Secretary
> U.S. Department of Energy
> 202-586-1448
>
>

Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2017 2:29 PM
To: McCormack, Brian
Subject: Fwd: Meeting with Naftagas

Brian,

I wanted to send you some background information that may be helpful in explaining some of the chatter you hear. Since I could not come up with any specific examples of my actions being in any way undermining the DOE full and exclusive responsibility for setting up the Secretary's visit schedule, I am beginning to think that some of the discussions I had here must've ruffled some feathers and resulted in that chatter.

I look forward to meeting you in person.

All the best,

MB

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bleyzer, Michael" <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Date: July 23, 2017 at 12:10:06 AM GMT+3
To: "Michele.Smith@trade.gov" <Michele.Smith@trade.gov>, Brunson Anya Y <BrunsonAY@state.gov>, Scott W Shrum <ShrumSW@state.gov>
Cc: "Bleyzer, Lev" <lbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Subject: Meeting with Naftagas

Michele, Anya and Scott,

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

All the best,
MB

Sent from my iPad

Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Gerdes, Stan
Cc: Bleyzer, Natasha; Bleyzer, Michael
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Sunday cultural program

Hi Stan,

Talked to Natasha and my brother Lev, who is in Ukraine right now. Here is the program that would be diverse enough to cover several important aspects of Ukrainian history and culture.

Sunday Nov 11

9:00 am (8:50 preferred) meet in the lobby of Hyatt. Walk across the square (no need for the car) to St. Sofia's Cathedral

9:00 – 10:00 am visit to St. Sofia Cathedral, probably the most historically important site in Ukraine.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Sophia%27s_Cathedral,_Kiev

10:00 – 10:30 transfer by car to Babi Yar, the most important Holocaust site in Kyiv

10:30 – 11:00 visit to Babi Yar https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babi_Yar lay flowers

11:00 – 11:30 transfer to Independence Square – Maidan

11:30 – 12:00 visit Maidan, the site of Orange Revolution and Revolution of Dignity. Lay flowers at the Heavenly 100 Memorial

12:00 – 12:30 transfer to National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War

12:30 – 13:30 Visit Second World War Museum and Motherland Monument

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum_of_the_History_of_Ukraine_in_the_Second_World_War

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Motherland_Monument

13:30 – 15:00 transfer to lunch, lunch at a Ukrainian restaurant (TBD), and return to the hotel

Please pass this on to Sec. Perry. We can discuss during dinner on Saturday and modify if needed. For example, another very interesting place to visit would be St. Volodymyr's Cathedral

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Volodymyr%27s_Cathedral, which has amazing paintings, mosaics and frescoes. Or Kiev Pechersk Lavra https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiev_Pechersk_Lavra But we cannot do them all. Also, as we visit cathedrals in Ukraine he needs to be aware of the battle between Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Russian Orthodox Church. We can discuss on Saturday.

<https://www.unian.info/society/10320966-ukrainian-orthodox-church-trying-to-withdraw-from-moscow-s-control-kremlin-not-happy.html>

Please confirm that you received this and let me know if you have any questions.



Michael Bleyzer
President & CEO

SigmaBleyzer Investment Group, LLC
123 N. Post Oak, Suite 410
Houston, TX 77024
(713) 621-3111 office
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Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: Gerdes, Stan
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 12:15 PM
To: Bleyzer, Michael
Cc: McCormack, Brian
Subject: RE: DAU

Michael,

The Embassy is working through this on their end, so I'm not sure of the status of them contacting the DAU at this point – I will have an update on Monday.

Thank you,
 Stan

From: Bleyzer, Michael [mailto:mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com]
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 2:48 PM
To: Brian McCormack <brian(b) (6) >; Gerdes, Stan <Stan.Gerdes@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DAU

Brian, Stan,

Just a quick piece of information for you. Sergiy Korsunsky is the Head of the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine (DAU). As of today, he was not aware of any plans for Sec. Perry to speak there on Nov 12. The DAU hall where this assembly could take place can probably hold 200-250 people. They will need to make some changes, move chairs, etc. to the assembly hall to accommodate a large gathering. But they can do it pretty quickly.

In any case, I am sure that the Embassy will be contacting him soon to let him know about the event.

MB

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Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2018 10:25 AM
To: Gerdes, Stan
Cc: Bleyzer, Michael
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sunday plans

Hey Stan,
Just wanted to check if Sunday cultural program I sent to you has been approved.
Please let me know.
Thanks.



Michael Bleyzer
President & CEO
SigmaBleyzer Investment Group, LLC
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Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: Gerdes, Stan
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2018 12:24 PM
To: Bleyzer, Michael
Cc: Habansky, Sarah; Jake Smith (Jake.Smith@hq.doe.gov)
Subject: RE: Proposed Sunday cultural program

Good Afternoon Michael,

The proposed cultural program below looks great – I'm connecting you with Jake and Sarah who will be handling all logistics for Secretary Perry's trip in Ukraine. They arrive into Kyiv tomorrow at 1pm (local time).

They will reach out to you to once they get in country to finalize coordinating the cultural agenda below.

If you have any questions/concerns, please let me know.

Thanks again for your help!

Stan

Stan Gerdes
 Office of the Secretary
 Department of Energy
 202-586-5534



From: Bleyzer, Michael [mailto:mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com]
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 2:14 PM
To: Gerdes, Stan <Stan.Gerdes@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Bleyzer, Natasha <nbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>; Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Sunday cultural program

Hi Stan,

Talked to Natasha and my brother Lev, who is in Ukraine right now. Here is the program that would be diverse enough to cover several important aspects of Ukrainian history and culture.

Sunday Nov 11

9:00 am (8:50 preferred) meet in the lobby of Hyatt. Walk across the square (no need for the car) to St. Sofia's Cathedral
 9:00 – 10:00 am visit to St. Sofia Cathedral, probably the most historically important site in Ukraine.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Sophia%27s_Cathedral,_Kiev

10:00 – 10:30 transfer by car to Babi Yar, the most important Holocaust site in Kyiv

10:30 – 11:00 visit to Babi Yar https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babi_Yar lay flowers

11:00 – 11:30 transfer to Independence Square – Maidan

11:30 – 12:00 visit Maidan, the site of Orange Revolution and Revolution of Dignity. Lay flowers at the Heavenly 100 Memorial

12:00 – 12:30 transfer to National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War

12:30 – 13:30 Visit Second World War Museum and Motherland Monument

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Museum_of_the_History_of_Ukraine_in_the_Second_World_War)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Motherland Monument](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Motherland_Monument)

13:30 – 15:00 transfer to lunch, lunch at a Ukrainian restaurant (TBD), and return to the hotel

Please pass this on to Sec. Perry. We can discuss during dinner on Saturday and modify if needed. For example, another very interesting place to visit would be St. Volodymyr's Cathedral

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St Volodymyr's Cathedral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Volodymyr%27s_Cathedral), which has amazing paintings, mosaics and frescoes. Or Kiev Pechersk Lavra [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiev Pechersk Lavra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiev_Pechersk_Lavra) But we cannot do them all. Also, as we visit cathedrals in Ukraine he needs to be aware of the battle between Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Russian Orthodox Church. We can discuss on Saturday.

<https://www.unian.info/society/10320966-ukrainian-orthodox-church-trying-to-withdraw-from-moscow-s-control-kremlin-not-happy.html>

Please confirm that you received this and let me know if you have any questions.



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Rodriguez, Susan (CONTR)

From: Magaletska Vladyslava <vmagaletska@sigmableyzer.com.ua>
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 6:51 AM
To: McCormack, Brian
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SigmaBleyzer Investment Group

Dear Brian,

I was very glad to see you and H.E. Mr.Perry.

I'm a Vice President of the SigmaBleyzer investment fund, ex-Deputy minister (2014-2016), member of the National Council of the Reforms, PhD in cybernetics.

Hope to keep in touch,

Best regards,

Vladyslava Magaletska

Vice President

SigmaBleyzer Investment Group, LLC

6 Baseyna St., 8th floor, Kyiv, 01004 Ukraine

+ 380442841289 office

(b) (6) mobile

(b) (6) mobile

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From: Brian McCormack
To: McCormack, Brian
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Thank you!
Date: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 4:18:22 PM
Attachments: INTERFAX PSA tenders.pdf

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bleyzer, Michael" <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Date: December 18, 2018 at 4:45:58 PM EST
To: "Brian McCormack - DOE COS (brian(b) (6))"
<brian(b) (6) >
Cc: "Joseph F. Uddo (joe.uddo@hq.doe.gov)" <joe.uddo@hq.doe.gov>, "Alex
Cranberg (acranberg@aspectenergy.com)" <acranberg@aspectenergy.com>,
"Bleyzer, Michael" <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Subject: FW: Thank you!

Brian,

Good news from Ukraine! Below is my thank-you-email to the Ambassador. But I also wanted to thank you for all the support and help we received from you and your staff. Please pass my best regards and the words of gratitude on to the Secretary. I believe his very strong and clear message of the importance of foreign investment and the use of American technology to achieve Ukrainian energy independence has played a major role in making this happened. With this major step forward Ukraine is in much better position to attract American investments in Oil & Gas and strengthen its relationship with the United States.

I have also attached an Interfax press release regarding today's decision by Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

Thanks again.
Happy Holidays and all the best!



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From: Bleyzer, Michael

Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 11:16 AM

To: Amb. Marie L. Yovanovitch (YovanovitchML2@state.gov)
<YovanovitchML2@state.gov>

Cc: John P. Schutte (SchutteJP@state.gov) <SchutteJP@state.gov>; Heather Bell
(bellhr@state.gov) <bellhr@state.gov>; Dianne Wampler (wamplerd@state.gov)
<wamplerd@state.gov>; Bleyzer, Lev <lbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>; Bodayev Vadim
<vbodayev@sigmableyzer.com.ua>; Vladyslava Rutytska
(b) (6)) <(b) (6)>; Alex Cranberg
(acranberg@aspectenergy.com) <acranberg@aspectenergy.com>; Segura, Edi L.
(elsegura@sigmableyzer.com) <elsegura@sigmableyzer.com>; Tucker Brown
(BrownTA@state.gov) <BrownTA@state.gov>; Morgan Williams
<mwilliams@sigmableyzer.com>; Parker, Tan <tparker@sigmableyzer.com>; O'Malley,
Ryan <rdomalley@sigmableyzer.com>; Bleyzer, Michael
<mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>

Subject: Thank you!

Dear Madam Ambassador,

I would like to personally thank you for your support and help in getting PSA tenders approved today by the Cabinet of Ministers. We are very pleased with this major step forward by the Ukrainian government. We believe that this decision will allow for a clean, transparent process to be conducted to select the most qualified foreign investors who will bring investment capital and modern technology to enable significant increase in Oil & Gas production in Ukraine. This in turn will support Ukrainian energy independence and improve quality of life for Ukrainian people.

I also would like to thank the members of your team, particularly JP, Tucker and Heather for their advice and unwavering support. I look forward to continue working with you and your team throughout the tender process and beyond.

Thank you very much, happy holidays, and all the best from Houston!



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The Cabinet of Ministers decides to hold over 10 tenders for hydrocarbon PSAs in Ukraine as a result of an initiative by USUBC, SigmaBleyzer and Navigator Complect.

Kyiv. December 18th. INTERFAX-UKRAINE - on Tuesday, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has approved resolutions on holding more than a dozen open tenders for the conclusion on Production Sharing Agreements on hydrocarbon (PSAs).

According to The Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman the Cabinet of Ministers' is to finalize and issue the documents within the specified term in accordance with the procedural rules and the results of the discussion at the meeting.

The agenda included resolutions on mining within 11 fields: Grunevsky, Varvinsky, Rusanovsky, Akhtyrsky, Buzovsky, Zenkovsky, Ivanovsky, Ichnyansky, Balakleysky, Sofiyevsky and Berestyansky.

For the first 10 fields the initiative to hold such tenders belongs to the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) and the investment company SigmaBleyzer, in the latest field - to the Ukrainian Navigator Complect LLC.

According to the Minister of Energy and Coal Mining of Ukraine, Ihor Nasalyk, a PSA will be put up for the tender also for the Ugnovsky field. He stated, these deposits are located in Ivano-Frankivsky, Lvivsky, Poltavsky, Chernihivsky, Sumsky and Kharkivsky regions.

As reported earlier, on its meeting on August 16, 2018, the Interdepartmental Commission on the conclusion and implementation of the PSA has approved draft resolutions on the holding of 12 tenders for hydrocarbon PSAs.

SigmaBleyzer is based in Houston (Texas, USA) and has been operating in private investments in Ukraine for more than 25 years. Company has made more than 100 investments in a wide range of sectors, including energy, cable TV, food and beverages, agriculture, retail.

According to the company's website, SigmaBleyzer currently manages over 1 billion \$ through 6 investment structures.

At the end of June 2018, The State Service of Geology and Mineral Resources of Ukraine has announced that SigmaBleyzer is ready to invest \$ 100 million in hydrocarbon production in Ukraine within Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs).

"We have studied the potential of Ukrainian resources for a long time, especially on its domestic oil and gas extraction. Our company's strategy is to develop fields where industrial production has never happened before... We are interested in areas over 500 sq. km within the PSA conditions. At the first stage we are ready to invest 100 million \$ ", - the press-release quoted the president of the investment company Michael Bleyzer after the meeting of the SigmaBleyzer, Aspect Holding and Energy Transfer companies Heads with the Deputy Head of the State Service of Geology and Mineral Resources of Ukraine Oleg Kirilyuk.

In mid September 2018 SigmaBleyzer has announced the creation of a new International Fund for Ukrainian Energy LP (IFUEL, International Fund for Ukrainian Energy) \$ 250 million, which will be focused on investments in the energy sector of Ukraine.

McCoy, Traci (CONTR)

From: Parker, Tan <tparker@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:38 AM
To: Bleyzer, Michael
Cc: Alex Cranberg; Blaine Saathoff; Bleyzer, Lev; McCormack, Brian
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Meeting with the PM

Wonderful update Michael. (b) (4)

It would speed up the process dramatically. Thank you so much.

All the best-

Tan

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 25, 2019, at 2:33 PM, Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com> wrote:

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

McCoy, Traci (CONTR)

From: Habansky, Sarah
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 12:19 PM
To: Bleyzer, Michael; Salinas, Minnie; Gerdes, Stan
Cc: Bleyzer, Natasha
Subject: RE: Ukraine suggestions

Thank you for sending this. I am looping Stan & Minnie from our office who are helping with this piece of the schedule.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bleyzer, Michael [mailto:mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com]
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 12:00 PM
To: Habansky, Sarah <Sarah.Habansky@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Bleyzer, Natasha <nbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Subject: Re: Ukraine suggestions

Hi Sarah,

Our people on the ground provided some restaurant suggestions and also went and checked out some of the proposed spots for dinner on Tuesday and two lunches on Wednesday and Thursday. Based on that feedback here is what you may suggest:

1. Dinner on Tuesday night. Three options – 1. private dinner at the Bleyzer's residency in Kyiv; 2. San Tori (sushi, Asian, fusion, very nice, has a private room that needs to be booked); 3. Vino e Cucina (Italian, high end, great selection of wines, private room in a wine cellar – needs to be booked). San Tori is our old favorite, we have been there many times over the years. Vino e Cucina is our new favorite, great food and wine selection.
2. Lunch spots for Anita and Natasha. Four options. 1. Spotikach (Ukrainian food, has private rooms, needs to be booked, on Andriivsky Descent); 2. Kanapa (Ukrainian food, liked by our people a lot, no private rooms, but an area that can be closed off if booked that way, Andriivsky Descent); 3. Last Barricade (new, very hip, cool place inside Globus on Maidan, no private rooms, fairly public, so security and privacy could be an issue, but could be managed); 4. O'Panas (nice small Ukrainian food spot in Taras Shevchenko Park next to the State University, small private room upstairs, we used it many times, good for 3-6 people).

Let me know if you have questions or would like to discuss. I am diving the rest of the day, but could talk tomorrow morning.

Natasha has a great guide she would recommend to use for touring with Anita. We recently brought her to Houston to make a presentation at the Houston Museum of Holocaust and she was very good. She is an expert on Holocaust, Holodomor but also a great history and culture guide that we use for important visitors. We can send you her CV if needed.

MB

On 8/10/17, 1:54 PM, "Habansky, Sarah" <Sarah.Habansky@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

Please see below

And Mrs. Perry was wondering if you could help with a dinner spot for Tuesday night in Kiev and if you and your wife plus Tony Buzzbee would join them? We can have the Embassy make the reservation if you can suggest a good spot.

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Bleyzer, Michael [mailto:mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 2:48 PM

To: Habansky, Sarah <Sarah.Habansky@hq.doe.gov>

Subject: Re: Ukraine suggestions

Sarah,

A couple of questions, if you have the answers already:

1. What hotels we will be staying at in Astana and Kyiv? Do we need to book them ourselves, or is it being taken care of by DOE? - JW Marriot in Astana & Hyatt in Kiev (DOE will handle reserving your room)
2. What time do we need to be at Andrews for the 5:00 am departure on Sunday August 17 and where exactly do we go? - TBD waiting to hear from military office on times and we will work on how you get there as well
3. When do you think we will have the schedule of the meetings for the Secretary in Ukraine? - hopefully soon our team is working on them as we speak

Thanks a lot,

MB

On 8/10/17, 12:50 PM, "Habansky, Sarah" <Sarah.Habansky@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

Thanks I didn't notice their dates were incorrect.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bleyzer, Michael [mailto:mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 1:44 PM

To: Habansky, Sarah <Sarah.Habansky@hq.doe.gov>

Cc: Bleyzer, Natasha <nbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>

Subject: Re: Ukraine suggestions

Hi Sarah,

I am copying Natasha for her comments. But the dates are obviously wrong in the proposed schedule. We will only be arriving from Kazakhstan on August 29, so activities shown for that date are impossible. However, the 29th is actually Tuesday, not Wednesday as shown in the proposed schedule. So, the dates need to be corrected. But even if you do that, the second day will not work as proposed. You were indicating to me Thursday 16:00 departure from Ukraine, which would make the afternoon program proposed in the schedule impossible. Can you please sort out the actual dates available on the ground in Ukraine?

Natasha will provide her comments on the proposed schedule, but we would probably choose different (better) Ukrainian restaurants, and there are clearly some important sites missing from the program – like Kyiv Pechersk Lavra (probably number one attraction in Kyiv), newly opened Holocaust Museum (Natasha is checking with her people on its status), Holodomor Memorial, etc.

MB

On 8/10/17, 11:40 AM, "Habansky, Sarah" <Sarah.Habansky@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

Please find attached a draft schedule of suggested sites for Mrs. Perry. Can your wife take a look and provide feedback and add any other suggestions she may have?

Thanks
Sarah

ITA equity

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ITA equity

ITA equity

15

2

ITA equity

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x

ITA equity

ITA equity

Dixon, Teresa A. (CONTR)

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 18, 2019 2:08 AM
To: Buchan, Samuel; Brian McCormack - DOE COS (brian(b) (6)
Cc: Bleyzer, Michael
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dormant Licenses

Below is the information I just received regarding dormant licenses. Sorry it is in Russian.

Here is the summary of what it says:

Total number of Oil & Gas licenses issued - approximately 520, from which:

UGV (Naftogaz) - 200

Ukrnafta (Naftogaz and Kolomoisky) - 100

Private companies - 220

Unofficial estimates of dormant licenses from those issued:

UGV - 70

Ukrnafta - 30

Private companies - 100

All numbers are approximate. There are many court cases for expired and / or dormant licenses which have been on the books for years.

This whole issue should be discussed with Groysman and used to illustrate the ridiculous nature of either UGV or Ukrnafta participating in additional licensing rounds, including PSA tender, and competing with new potential players, foreign investors, etc. Also, at some point this question needs to be raised with the new President (probably not during this visit, as he is definitely not prepared) and with Danilyuk. Additional information (if any) can be provided during your meeting on Sunday with our team.

MB

-----Original Message-----

From: Bodayev Vadim <vbodayev@sigmableyzer.com.ua>

Sent: Saturday, May 18, 2019 12:40 AM

To: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>; Bleyzer, Lev <lbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>

Subject: Лицензии

Майкл

По лицензиям -

Официальная информация практически отсутствует Но после долгих уговоров ДержГеослужба сообщила следующее, Всего по нефтегазу выдано порядка 520 лицензий УГВ - 200

Укрнафта-100

Не государственные компании 220

По их неофициальным оценкам

Спящих лицензий

УГВ -70

Укрнафта- 30

Частные компании-100

Аудит использования лицензий никто не делал, официально на всех лицензиях выполняются какие то программы.

Все цифры ориентировочные.

При окончании лицензий судебные разбирательства тянутся годами и они их то исключают из реестра , то включают, поэтому доступ до реестра без специального разрешения не получить.

Это тоже вопрос к президенту - запросить последние данные, а потом проверить их реальность.

Бодаев

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Dixon, Teresa A. (CONTR)

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 18, 2019 4:18 PM
To: Buchan, Samuel
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Visit schedule

OK. Just sent you a WhatsApp message. It is easier to forward from there, if you use it.
 MB

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2019, at 3:08 PM, Buchan, Samuel <samuel.buchan@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

Michael,

I arrived in Kyiv today. Brian is preparing for his departure now and will be here tomorrow afternoon. I'm happy to take a look at any options you might want us to consider. I'd be happy to meet tomorrow as well, but I will need to check our schedule since we have a number of prep meetings tomorrow.

My international number is ^{(b) (6)}
 get together with your team.

Let's stay in touch and try to arrange time tomorrow to

Best,

Sam

From: Bleyzer, Michael [<mailto:mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 18, 2019 3:52 PM
To: Buchan, Samuel <samuel.buchan@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Visit schedule

Sam,

Are you in Kyiv already? I assume you are. I am not sure when Brian and the Secretary are travelling. I have been working with our team on the ground checking on some possible meetings. I have sent some of that information to Brian via a message, but not sure if he is flying already and may not have his cell phone with him.

Please let me know if you will handle additional information as needed, and send me your cell number please.

Also, if you would like to meet with our team tomorrow morning to get the latest news and discuss options for Sunday afternoon and Monday, please let me know when you are available, and I will arrange that.

All the best,

<image001.jpg>
 Michael Bleyzer

President & CEO
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Dixon, Teresa A. (CONTR)

From: Bleyzer, Michael <mbleyzer@sigmableyzer.com>
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2019 3:19 AM
To: Buchan, Samuel
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) applications submitted in Kyiv by 13 companies
Attachments: image001.jpg; image003.jpg

Sam,

This is from USUBC re PSA tender. Please note a major concern about UGV dominating the auction and trying to prevent any private investors, foreign or domestic, from entering the market. They are using Ukrainian taxpayer's hryvna to keep their state monopoly going.

Please share with Brian and the Secretary. It would be helpful if a major Western source, like FT or Economist would pick this up or do their own in-depth piece on how the state of Ukraine is announcing a tender to attract foreign investors, while a 100% State-owned agency Naftogaz is wasting taxpayer's money trying to block this move.

Thanks,

MB



**U.S.-UKRAINE BUSINESS COUNCIL (USUBC)
 WASHINGTON, D.C.**

"A strong international voice for business in Ukraine"

THIRTEEN COMPANIES SUBMITTED PRODUCTION SHARING AGREEMENT (PSA) APPLICATIONS IN UKRAINE

U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC), Wash, D.C., Mon, June 3, 2019



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Thirteen companies submitted a total of twenty-two Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) applications for nine sites in Ukraine at the Ministry Of Energy and Coal Industry in Kyiv on May 28, 2019. The applications were opened in the presence of Energy Minister Igor Nasalyk, members of the Interdepartmental Commission, and representatives of the companies who submitted applications.

Minister Nasalyk said, "It is very important for Ukraine to conduct such a contest. The tender process will create real competition in the field of gas extraction and facilitate the rapid increase in gas production in Ukraine."

The Interdepartmental Commission is responsible for carrying out the evaluation of the submitted

applications. Within one month, the Commission is to identify the winners of the competition and recommend them for approval by the government of Ukraine.

Five international companies were involved in the applications. Canadian company Vermillion Energy, in partnership with Ukgazvydobuvannya (UGV), the United States companies SigmaBleyzer, Houston, Texas with Aspect Energy of Denver, Colorado, and the Central European Holding EPH, or Energeticky Prumyslový holding, a.s., of the Czech Republic, with the operator Nafta of Slovakia. The largest number of applications, nine, were submitted by JSC Ukgazvydobuvannya (UGV) (100% owned by "Naftogas Ukraine," which is 100% owned by the government of Ukraine) including four jointly with Vermillion Energy of Canada.

PSSC "VK Ukrnaftoburinnya" submitted two applications, PJSC: Ukrnafta" two applications, "DTEK Naftohaz, two applications, NakhidNadraServis (Lviv) two applications. One application was filed by SigmaBleyzer, EPH, GeoAlliance, "Navigator Kompekt" and "Eurogas Ukraine."

STATE OWNED COMPANIES ALLOWED TO BID...MAJOR CONCERN



Ukraine's 2019 Production Sharing Agreement program was to be a major new program designed to attract private international and domestic companies to invest in energy production. Energy production is now dominated by state companies, who already have many special benefits, not available to private companies. A major concern has been expressed by many energy experts about state owned companies like UGV, being allowed to bid in a program designed to attract private international and domestic investors.

State owned companies do not need any additional privileges and incentives, such as being allowed to bid in the 2019 PSA program, which included government companies bidding for government land plots. A level playing field is needed in Ukraine for private companies.

The timely and major expansion of oil and gas production in Ukraine, to meet the needs of the people and to increase energy security, will not be accomplished without significant investment by private companies, a major goal strongly expressed by the United States, the European Union, IMF, other international organizations and also the government of Ukraine. The structure of the present 2019 Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) program will not accomplish that goal. The government of Ukraine needs to do more to make energy production competitive and not monopolistic.

In the picture: boxes of PSA applications waiting to be opened at the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry.

NEWS: For the latest news go to the KYIV POST website: www.KyivPost.com.
The Kyiv Post is a member of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC).

U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC)

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Power Corrupts...Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely.

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