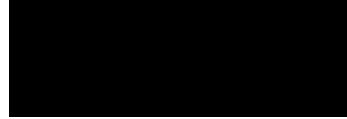


UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD

January 29, 2014

Michael Fritz
Farmland Investor Letter



Re: FOIA #14-033

Dear Mr. Fritz:

I write to respond to your Freedom of Information request of January 21, 2014, and received in my office on that date in which you requested:

“Can you kindly confirm that the new lease rate for all farms offered the RFQ2014APS concession was the high bid rate as reported in your response? If this is not the case, kindly report the new lease rate in instances where the lease rate is not the high lease bid submitted. If there is background context commentary as to why the high bidder was not chosen for a lease award, that would be appreciated.”

Information responsive to your request is available and attached. These are public documents numbering 1 page.

The FOIA does not compel a public body to answer questions or interpret documents. However, answers to your questions are being provided to you. The bolded items in the attached document represent the selected bid. The highest bid was not necessarily the selected bid in all cases. Proposals were scored by the review committee with the bids being one component.

Information regarding the proposal scoring that might address your last point for “background context” is being withheld pursuant to section 140/7(1)(f) of the Act that exempts from disclosure “Preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record or relevant portion of a record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body.” Records related to the scoring for bids are deliberative in nature. On numerous occasions the Public Access Counselor has concluded that scoring sheets used to select a vendor fall within the provisions of this section. (See Ill. Att’y Gen. PAC Pre-Auth. 16159, 16151, 15486, 15333, 15364, 14858, and 14851.)

Office for University Relations

Urbana • 506 South Wright Street, MC 370 • Urbana, IL 61801 • (217) 333-6400 • Fax (217) 333-5733
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You have a right, under the law, to seek a review of this response by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Office of the Attorney General. The PAC may be reached by phone at 217-782-1396, by email to publicaccess@atg.state.il.us, or by postal mail at the Public Access Bureau, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706. You also have the right to seek judicial review under section 11 of this Act.

If you have questions for our office, please contact 217-333-6400.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Hardy
Executive Director
and Chief Records Officer