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ENERGY DEPARTMENT AGREES TO RELEASE UKRAINE DOCUMENTS THIS MONTH



In a court filing on Monday, the [Department of Energy](https://www.americanoversight.org/document/joint-status-report-american-oversight-v-doe-perry-and-brouilletes-ukraine-records-and-communications) agreed to release multiple categories [of Ukraine-related records to American Oversight](https://www.americanoversight.org/document/joint-status-report-american-oversight-v-doe-perry-and-brouilletes-ukraine-records-and-communications), including former Secretary Rick Perry's communications with high-level Ukrainian officials, associates of Rudy Giuliani, and outside groups associated with U.S. energy interests in Ukraine.

In October, [American Oversight sued the department](https://www.americanoversight.org/new-lawsUIT-seeks-perry-and-brouillette-ukraine-documents-and-communications-about-biden-investigation-effort) [for records of the May 2019 delegation to Ukraine led by then-Secretary Perry as well as for documents related to the effort to pressure Ukraine to announce an investigation into former Vice President Joe Biden.](https://www.americanoversight.org/new-lawsUIT-seeks-perry-and-brouillette-ukraine-documents-and-communications-about-biden-investigation-effort) Monday's joint status report agrees to prioritize delegation records as well as Perry's and former Chief of Staff Brian McCormack's communications in its first production, scheduled for Jan. 28. Subsequent productions are scheduled for Feb. 4 and March 16.

American Oversight has five other lawsuits for Ukraine records, and last week obtained more than 70 pages calendars and text messages of Kurt Volker, the former special envoy to Ukraine who had assisted Giuliani in arranging a meeting with a top Ukrainian official. Volker's calendars showed minimal entries, raising further questions, and the texts appear duplicative of those he provided to House investigators in the impeachment inquiry.

Prior document releases to American Oversight include the November release of State Department documents showing March 2019 phone calls between Giuliani and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (with the aid of the Oval Office) and the December release of Defense Department documents showing senior Pentagon and Office of Management and Budget officials engaged in the issue of aid to Ukraine. These, as well as the release of [\(highly redacted](https://www.justsecurity.org/67863/exclusive-unredacted-ukraine-documents-reveal-extent-of-pentagons-legal-concerns/) [records to the Center for Public Integrity](https://www.justsecurity.org/67863/exclusive-unredacted-ukraine-documents-reveal-extent-of-pentagons-legal-concerns/) [are further evidence of the Trump administration's obstruction and the importance of the Freedom of Information Act in forcing the release of documents.](https://publicintegrity.org/national-security/trump-administration-officials-worried-ukraine-aid-halt-violated-spending-law/)

[American Oversight's lawsuit against the Department of Energy](https://www.americanoversight.org/document/complaint-american-oversight-v-doe-perry-and-brouilletes-ukraine-records-and-communications)

[perry-and-brouilletes-ukraine-records-and-communications](https://www.americanoversight.org/document/complaint-american-oversight-v-doe-perry-and-brouilletes-ukraine-records-and-communications) seeks the following records:

- Communications between Perry, McCormack or then-Deputy Secretary Dan Brouillette and various outside contacts including Naftogaz, Igor Fruman, and Lev Parnas;
- Emails sent by Perry, Brouillette, and McCormack containing any of three dozen terms, including “Biden,” “Giuliani,” or “Zelensky”;
- Records relating to 2019 meetings between Perry and Ukrainian officials, including briefing materials, meeting summaries, communications about the meetings, and expense records;
- Perry’s and McCormack’s communications with Giuliani or about any efforts to pressure the Ukrainian government to open a political investigation; and
- Any guidance or directives issued to or by McCormack with relation to the Bidens or Burisma Holdings.

Part of Investigation:

[The Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine](https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine)

<https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine>

[Rick Perry's Energy Industry Connections — in the U.S. and Abroad](https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/rick-perrys-energy-industry-connections-in-the-u-s-and-abroad)

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