

Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority (CBSA) Right-to-Know Law Policy

(Adopted June 12, 2025 pursuant to 65 P.S. § 67.504(a) and CBSA Resolution No. 2025-022)

Effective Date: June 13, 2025

I. Authority

The Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority, 1400 East Main Street, Clarion, PA 16214, (“Agency”) adopts this policy pursuant to Section 504(a) of the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law, 65 P.S. §§ 67.101-67.3104 (“RTKL”). The Agency has made this policy available to the public at its administrative office located at 1400 East Main Street, Clarion, PA 16214 and on its public website along with a RTKL Uniform Request Form.

II. Definitions

All of the definitions set forth in the RTKL are incorporated into this policy by reference.

AORO. The Agency Open Records Officer designated by the Agency pursuant to Section IV of this policy.

Business day. The regular business hours (“business day”) of the Agency are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Business days exclude Saturday and Sunday and a weekday on which the Agency is closed for business.

Requestor. A person that is a legal resident of the United States and requests a record pursuant to the RTKL. This term includes an agency.

III. Agency Website

The Agency maintains a public website at <https://clarionboro.org/clarion-borough-stormwater-authority/>. Some of the records most commonly requested from the Agency are available on the website. The following information is also posted on the Agency’s website: AORO contact information; contact information for the Pennsylvania OOR; the form which must be used to file a RTKL request; and a copy of this policy.

IV. Submitting a RTKL Request to the Agency

A. *Open Records Officer (AORO).* The Agency has designated an AORO to respond to RTKL requests.

The contact information for the AORO is:

Name/Title: Todd Colosimo, Open Records Officer

By Mail: Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority, 1400 East Main Street, Clarion, PA 16214

In Person: Clarion Borough Stormwater Authority, 1400 East Main Street, Clarion, PA 16214

Phone: (814) 226-7707, Extension 109

Fax: (814) 226-9040

Email: tcolosimo@clarionboro.org

Website: <https://clarionboro.org/clarion-borough-stormwater-authority/>

The contact information for the AORO is also posted on the Agency website.

- B. *RTKL Request.* Requests must be submitted in writing using the RTKL Uniform Request Form available on the Agency website and must be addressed to the AORO. If a requester chooses not to use the RTKL Uniform Request Form, the request will be considered an informal request, not subject to the RTKL. This means that the requester cannot pursue the relief and remedies provided for in the RTKL. All written requests under the RTKL shall include the name and address to which the Agency should address its response. To allow the Agency to locate requested records and determine whether those records are public, requests for records should be specific and concise and clearly identify, as precisely as possible, the records sought. Requesters should clearly indicate the preferred method of access – paper copies, electronic copies or by inspection. A requester should retain a copy of the request, as a copy of the request is necessary should a requester appeal the Agency response.
- C. *Receipt of the request.* For the purpose of calculating the response deadline, the Agency is deemed to have received the request on the business day that the AORO receives the request. Any request that is received by the Agency after the close of regular business hours shall be deemed to be received on the next business day. If the request is received by an Agency employee other than the AORO, the request will be forwarded to AORO as soon as practical.
- D. *Verbal requests.* The Agency will respond to verbal requests for records at its discretion. Requesters submitting verbal requests for records should be aware that they may not pursue the remedies available to a requester under the RTKL.
- E. *Anonymous requests.* The Agency will not respond to anonymous requests for records. Requestors must be a legal resident of the United States.

- F. *Creation of record.* The Agency shall not be required to create a record which does not currently exist or to compile, maintain, format or organize a record in a manner in which the Agency does not currently compile, maintain, format or organize the record.
- G. *Medium requested.* A record being provided to a requester shall be provided in the medium requested if it exists in that medium; otherwise it shall be provided in the medium in which it exists.
- H. *Response period generally.* The Agency has 5 business days to respond to a request for records under the RTKL. If an Agency does not respond, the request is considered "deemed denied," and a requester's appeal rights commence.

V. **Agency Response**

- A. *Extension of time for response.* The Agency is permitted to take an additional 30 calendar days to respond to any request for the reasons set forth in Section 902 of the RTKL. If the Agency invokes an extension, the Agency will inform the requester in writing, in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 902(b)(2) of the RTKL.
- B. *Requester's agreement to extend the response period.* The requester may agree, in writing, to extend the Agency response period. The requester must agree to the extension during the initial 5 business-day response period or the extended 30 calendar day response period, if the Agency has invoked one.
- C. *Trade secrets.* If a request involves records provided to the Agency by a third party and the third party previously provided the Agency with a written statement that the record contains a trade secret or confidential proprietary information, the Agency shall provide notice to the third party.
- D. *Final response.* The Agency may grant a request, partially grant and partially deny a request, or deny a request in its entirety. The final response of the Agency will be in writing. Should the Agency fail to issue a response within the applicable response period, the request is deemed denied.
 - 1. *Granting access to records.* The Agency may grant a request for records by issuing a response: (1) granting access to inspect Agency records during the Agency's regular business hours; (2) sending copies of the records to the requester; or (3) by notifying the requester that the records are available on the Agency website or other publicly accessible electronic means.
 - 2. *Denying or partially denying access to records.* Should the Agency deny or partially deny a request for records through redaction or otherwise, the Agency will inform the requester of the denial or partial denial in writing. The response will describe the requested records, inform the requester that the Agency does not possess the

responsive records or, if the records are exempt from public access, provide a citation to the relevant legal basis for withholding the requested records. Additionally, the response will provide the name, signature, title, business address and telephone number of the Open Records Officer who denied the request, as well as the date of the response and the procedure to appeal the denial.

- E. *Fees.* The Agency will charge fees consistent with the current RTKL Fee Structure, available at <http://www.openrecords.pa.gov/RTKL/FeeStructure.cfm>. The Agency may, in its discretion, choose to waive some or all of the fees owed on a case-by-case basis. Payment for all fees charged must be received in full by the Agency before records will be released.

VI. RTKL Appeals

- A. *Generally.* To challenge the denial, partial denial, or deemed denial of a request for Agency records, an appeal may be filed using the PA Office of Open Records (OOR) appeal form, available at <http://www.openrecords.pa.gov/Appeals/AppealForm.cfm>, or by contacting the OOR at the following address:

Office of Open Records
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
333 Market St., 16th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2234
Telephone: (717) 346-9903
Fax: (717) 425-5343
Email: openrecords@pa.gov
Website: <http://openrecords.pa.gov>

- B. *Requirements of an appeal.* All appeals must be filed within 15 business days of the mailing date of the Agency's denial, partial denial, or deemed denial of the request. All appeals must be in writing; must state the grounds upon which the requester asserts that the requested records are public records; must address any grounds stated by the Agency for denying the request; and must include a copy of the request and the Agency's response, if any.

VII. Agency Notification of Third Parties on Appeal

Agency must notify third parties. If records affect a legal or security interest of an employee of the agency; contain confidential, proprietary or trademarked records of a person or business entity; or are held by a contractor or vendor, the Agency must notify such parties of the appeal immediately and provide proof of that notice to the OOR within 7 business days from the date of the OOR's Official Notice of Appeal. Such notice must be made by (1) providing a copy of all documents included with the appeal to the OOR; and (2) advising that interested persons may request to participate in the appeal.

VIII. Mediation

The RTKL requires the OOR to establish an informal mediation process to resolve disputes under the RTKL. 65 P.S. § 67.1310(a)(6). This is a voluntary process to help parties reach a mutually agreeable settlement on records disputes before the OOR. Mediation, a facilitated conversation between the parties that can serve as a fair and efficient tool to resolve conflict, can save time and expense. When appropriate, and at its discretion, the Agency is open to resolving RTKL disputes through the OOR's mediation process.

IX. Record Retention

The Agency's record retention policy is available at the Agency administrative offices located at 1400 East Main Street, Clarion, PA 16214.

Notwithstanding any other existing record retention policy, once a RTKL request is received, the Agency shall maintain, preserve, retain, protect, and not destroy any and all records, both electronic and hard copy, that are potentially responsive to the request until such time as the request is fulfilled and all associated appeals are resolved.

X. Additional Information about the RTKL

Additional information about the RTKL, the request process, and the appeal process is available on the OOR website at <https://www.openrecords.pa.gov>.