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January 10, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Attorney General Anthony G. Brown
Office of the Attorney General
ATTN: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
Email: idtheft@oag.state.md.us

Re: Notice of Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General Brown:

Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP, represents Woodwell Climate Research Center (“Woodwell”), a nonprofit entity based in Massachusetts. Woodwell takes the protection of all information within its possession very seriously and has taken measures to reduce the likelihood of a similar incident reoccurring. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the incident in accordance with Maryland’s data breach notification statute.

1. Nature of the Security Incident

On August 4, 2024, Woodwell became aware of unusual activity that disrupted access to certain systems. Upon discovering this activity, Woodwell immediately took steps to secure its network and launched an investigation with the assistance of independent cybersecurity experts to determine what happened. Through the investigation, it was revealed that certain information was acquired without authorization between July 25 and August 4, 2024. Following this confirmation, Woodwell commenced a comprehensive review of the potentially affected data and worked diligently to obtain contact information to effectuate notification to potentially affected individuals, which process concluded on December 13, 2024.

The potentially affected information varies for each individual, but may have included individuals’ name, Social Security number, and financial account information. Please note that Woodwell has no current evidence to suggest misuse or attempted misuse of personal information involved.

2. Number of Maryland Residents Affected

Woodwell notified twelve (12) Maryland residents within the potentially affected population on January 10, 2025, via USPS First-Class Mail. A sample copy of the notification letter sent to the impacted individuals is included with this correspondence.

3. Steps Taken Relating to the Incident

In response to the incident, Woodwell retained cybersecurity experts and launched a forensics investigation to determine the source and scope of the compromise. Woodwell also implemented additional security measures to further harden its digital environment in an effort to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future.

Further, while Woodwell is not aware of misuse of any information as a result of this incident, out of an abundance of caution, Woodwell is providing individuals with information about steps that they can take to help protect their personal information. Additionally, the notification letters provide 12 months of complimentary identity protection services to each eligible individual whose Social Security numbers or driver's license information was potentially affected by this event, including credit and dark web monitoring, a \$1 million identity theft insurance policy, and fully managed identity theft recovery services. Those services are offered by Experian IdentityWorks, a company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services. A call center will also be supported by Epiq for ninety (90) days to answer questions pertaining to the incident.

4. Contact Information

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 215.770.4234 or aweaver@constangy.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aubrey L. Weaver', with a stylized, flowing script.

Aubrey L. Weaver
Partner, Constangy Cyber Team

Attachment: Sample Notification Letter



Secure Processing Center
P.O. Box 3826
Suwanee, GA 30024

Postal Endorsement Line

<<Full Name>>

<<Address 1>>

<<Address 2>>

<<Address 3>>

<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

<<Country>>

***Postal IMB Barcode

<<Date>>

Subject: Notice of Data <<Variable 1>>

Dear <<Full Name>>,

Woodwell Climate Research Center (“Woodwell”) is writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have involved your information. Woodwell takes the privacy and security of individual information very seriously. Please read this letter carefully as it contains information regarding the incident and steps you can take to help protect your information.

What Happened. On August 4, 2024, Woodwell was made aware of unusual activity involving its computer networks. Upon discovery, we took measures to secure our network and launched an investigation. The investigation concluded that certain Woodwell data may have been accessed or downloaded by an unauthorized actor. As a result, we undertook a review of all potentially affected data to identify whether any individual information was contained in the account and to gather contact information needed to provide notification. This review concluded on December 13, 2024. Woodwell then worked diligently to arrange to provide you with notice of the incident.

What Information Was Involved. The information may have included your <<Breached Elements >>.

What We Are Doing. As soon as we discovered the incident, we took the steps described above and implemented additional security measures to minimize the risk of a similar incident occurring in the future. We are further notifying you of this event and advising you about steps you can take to help protect your information.

In addition, to help protect your information, we are offering complimentary access to Experian IdentityWorksSM for <<CM Duration>>.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information as a result of this incident and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that identity restoration support is needed then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred from the date of the incident (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that Identity Restoration is available to you for <<CM Duration>> from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration.

While identity restoration assistance is immediately available to you, we also encourage you to activate the fraud detection tools available through Experian IdentityWorks as a complimentary <<CM Duration>> membership. This product provides you with superior identity detection and resolution of identity theft. To start monitoring your personal information, please follow the steps below:

- Ensure that you **enroll by** <<Enrollment Deadline>> (Your code will not work after this date.)
- **Visit** the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit>
- Provide your **activation code**: <<Activation Code>>

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with Identity Restoration that arose as a result of this incident or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at 1-877-288-8057 by <<Enrollment Deadline>>. Be prepared to provide engagement number <<Engagement Number>> as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR <<CM DURATION>> EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP

A credit card is not required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks. You can contact Experian immediately regarding any fraud issues, and have access to the following features once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.*
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- **Identity Restoration:** Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

What You Can Do. You can follow the recommendations on the following page to help protect your information. You can also enroll in the complimentary identity protection services through Experian.

For More Information. If you have questions about this letter or need assistance, please call our dedicated team at 1-888-458-9823. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm Eastern Time. Representatives have been fully versed on the incident and can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding protection of your personal information.

We take this event and the security of information in our care seriously. Please accept our sincere apologies and know that we deeply regret any concern or inconvenience that this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Woodwell Climate Research Center
149 Woods Hole Road
Falmouth, MA 02540-1644

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

Review Your Account Statements and Notify Law Enforcement of Suspicious Activity: As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and credit reports closely. If you detect any suspicious activity on an account, you should promptly notify the financial institution or company with which the account is maintained. You also should promptly report any fraudulent activity or any suspected incidence of identity theft to proper law enforcement authorities, your state attorney general, and/or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Copy of Credit Report: You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies once every 12 months by visiting <http://www.annualcreditreport.com/>, calling toll-free 1-877-322-8228, or by completing an Annual Credit Report Request Form and mailing it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348. You also can contact one of the following three national credit reporting agencies:

Equifax
P.O. Box 105851
Atlanta, GA 30348
1-800-525-6285
www.equifax.com

Experian
P.O. Box 9532
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742
www.experian.com

TransUnion
P.O. Box 1000
Chester, PA 19016
1-800-916-8800
www.transunion.com

Fraud Alert: You may want to consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. An initial fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit file for at least one year. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you prior to establishing any accounts in your name. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact any of the three credit reporting agencies identified above. Additional information is available at <http://www.annualcreditreport.com>.

Security Freeze: You have the right to put a security freeze on your credit file for up to one year at no cost. This will prevent new credit from being opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate the freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential creditors from accessing your credit report without your consent. As a result, using a security freeze may interfere with or delay your ability to obtain credit. You must separately place a security freeze on your credit file with each credit reporting agency. In order to place a security freeze, you may be required to provide the consumer reporting agency with information that identifies you including your full name, Social Security number, date of birth, current and previous addresses, a copy of your state-issued identification card, and a recent utility bill, bank statement or insurance statement.

Internal Revenue Service Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN): You may also obtain an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) from the Internal Revenue Service, a six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a tax return using your Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS, and helps the IRS verify your identity when you file your electronic or paper tax return. Even though you may not have a filing requirement, an IP PIN still protects your account. If you do not already have an IP PIN, you may get an IP PIN as a proactive step to protect yourself from tax-related identity theft either online, by paper application or in-person. Information about the IP PIN program can be found here: <https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin>.

Additional Free Resources: You can obtain information from the consumer reporting agencies, the FTC, or from your respective state Attorney General about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft. You may report suspected identity theft to local law enforcement, including to the FTC or to the Attorney General in your state.

Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20580
consumer.ftc.gov
877-438-4338

Maryland Attorney General
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/CPD
888-743-0023

Oregon Attorney General
1162 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301
www.doj.state.or.us/consumer-protection
877-877-9392

California Attorney General
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.oag.ca.gov/privacy
800-952-5225

New York Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
800-771-7755
ag.ny.gov

Rhode Island Attorney General
150 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
www.riag.ri.gov
401-274-4400

Iowa Attorney General
1305 E. Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov
888-777-4590

NY Bureau of Internet and Technology
28 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10005
www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection/
212.416.8433

Washington D.C. Attorney General
400 S 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection
202-442-9828

Kentucky Attorney General

700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 118
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
www.ag.ky.gov
502-696-5300

NC Attorney General

9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699
ncdoj.gov/protectingconsumers/
877-566-7226

You also have certain rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA): These rights include to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; as well as other rights. For more information about the FCRA, and your rights pursuant to the FCRA, please visit <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf>