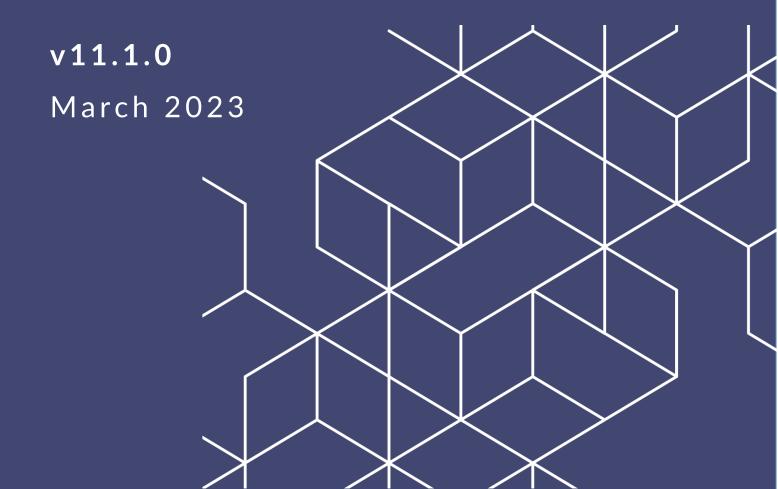
FOIAXpress



Collaboration Portal User Manual



FX 11.1.0 Collaboration Portal User Manual

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1 About this Manual

1.1 Introduction

Welcome to the FOIAXpress Collaboration Portal. The FX Collaboration Portal provides a platform for FOIAXpress users to work together on requests with others outside their FOIAXpress environment, easily collaborating on requests for documents and document reviews. This document provides an introduction to the portal, the portal UI, and steps for collaborating on requests using the portal. This includes sending requests for FOIAXpress, responding via the portal (including correspondence and document submission), and collaborating on responsive materials.

1.2 How to Use this Manual

This manual is divided in two main sections. The first applies to users on the FOIAXpress side, sending Requests for Documents and Consultation Tasks to the portal for collaboration with outside offices. The *Collaboration for Portal Users* section focuses on the Portal user experience, with instructions for receiving and fulfilling tasks, and utilizing the tools at hand to make collaboration effective.

For FOIAXpress Users:

See the *Collaboration for FOIAXpress Users* section. This section covers topics for *Requests for Documents*, *Consultation Reviews*, and *Correspondence* with Portal users.

For Portal Users:

See the Collaboration for Portal Users section. This section covers topics for Accessing the Collaboration Portal, Request for Document Tasks, Consultation Tasks, and Sending Messages Using the Portal.

1.3 Typography

The following formatting conventions are used in this manual to highlight important information:

- Italicized text indicates a location, for example a particular Folder, Tab, or Window.
- **Bold** text indicates a specific user action, such as clicking a **button**.
- Red text and this symbol (!!) are used in Notes to bring attention to crucial information.



2 Collaboration for FOIAXpress Users

This section provides instructions for FOIAXpress users to work in the Collaboration Portal. The following topics are covered in this section:

- Requests for Documents: Details on sending and completing a Request for Documents in the FOIAXpress application.
- Consultation Reviews: How to send documents for consultation review using Collaboration.
- Correspondence: Sending and receiving messages from the Collaboration Portal

2.1 Requests for Documents

2.1.1 Sending a Request for Documents

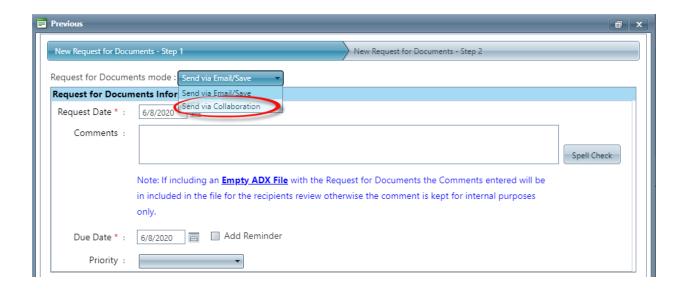
One of the main uses for Collaboration is to request documents from a source who does not have access to FOIAXpress. Follow the steps below to submit a Request for Documents to a contact using the Collaboration Portal.

- Open a request that has been assigned. Requests that are not assigned are not eligible for submitting RFDs.
- 2. Select (A) Request for Documents from the left-hand navigation, then click (B) New:

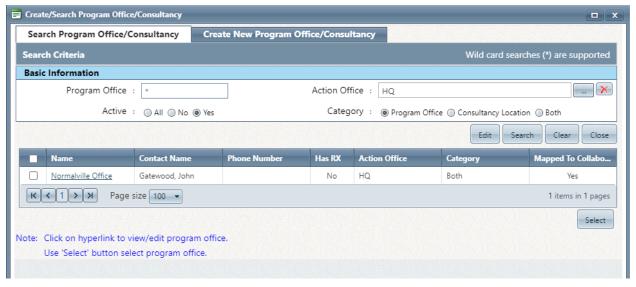


 On the New Request for Documents screen, locate the Request for Documents mode and select Send via Collaboration. This option submits the request to the Collaboration Portal.





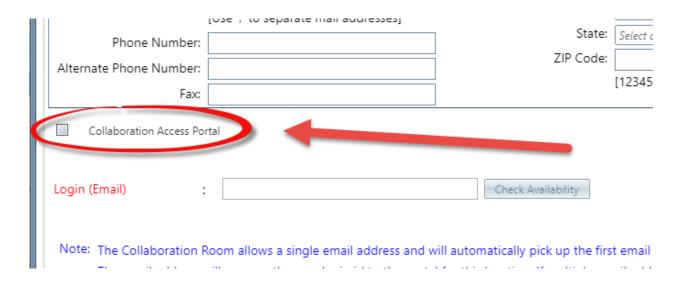
4. In the Send to: Program Offices section, click **Add Program Offices**. The Create/Search Program Office/Consultancy screen appears as shown below:



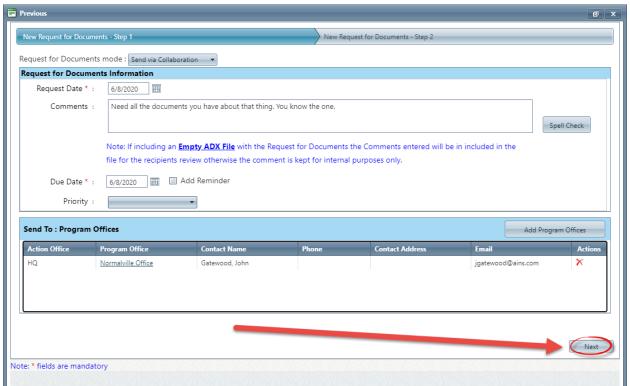
- 5. Here you can search for and select from existing Program Offices/Consultancies, or Create New Program Office/Consultancy.
- (!!) Note: If you create a new Program Office/Consultancy, you must select the Collaborate Access Portal checkbox to submit requests to a office/consultancy:



Collaboration for FOIAXpress Users



6. When you've selected at least one office/consultancy, click **Select** to add these to the RFD, then click **Next** to move to step 2:



7. The New RFD - Step 2 screen appears as shown below. First add any (A) Attachments, such as the original request letter for context:



- 8. You can also configure the message the end user receives with the request in the collaboration portal. First add a **Subject** for the message. You can also edit the **message body** as needed.
- 9. When you're ready to submit the request, click **Send Message**. A pop up message appears to confirm sending the RFD. Click **OK** to continue.
- 10. After the job processes, click **Close Window**. The *Request for Documents* screen refreshes with the new RFD included on the list.

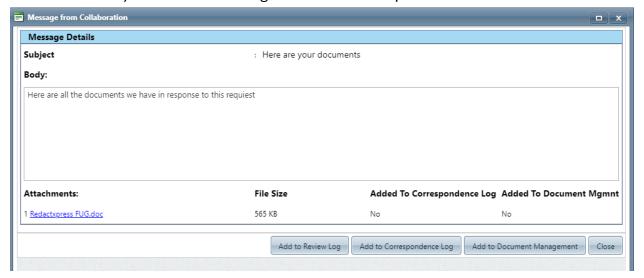
2.1.2 Receiving an RFD Response

When you receive a response to a request sent to the portal, the easiest point of access is via your *Messages* on the Home Page. Follow the steps below to receive records provided from the portal.

1. Click the **Messages from Collaboration Room** link on the *Home Page* to access your Collaboration Messages. The *Collaboration Messages* screen appears as shown below:

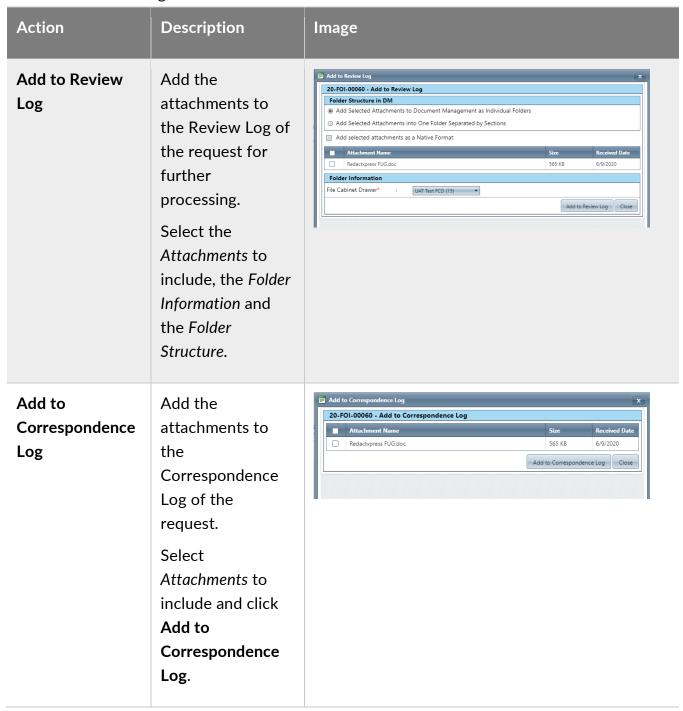


2. Select the new message and click **View Message**. The subject/body of the message should alert you that this message contains the responsive documents:

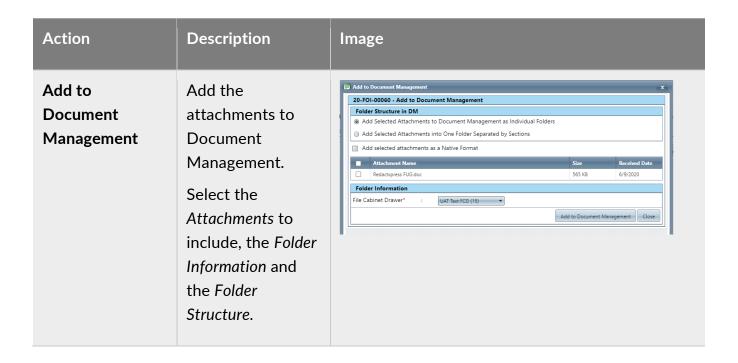




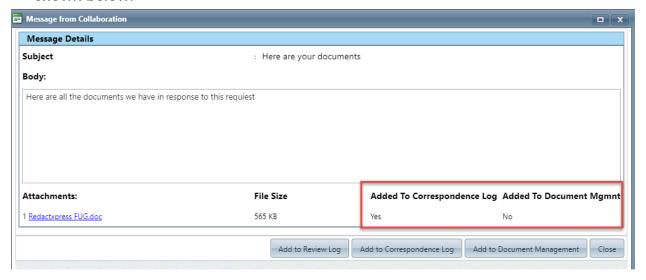
3. There are three options for moving the documents into FOIAXpress: **Add to Review Log**, **Add to Correspondence Log**, and **Add to Document Management**. Each is detailed in the following table:







4. After adding attachments, the action is reflected on the *Message Details* screen as shown below:

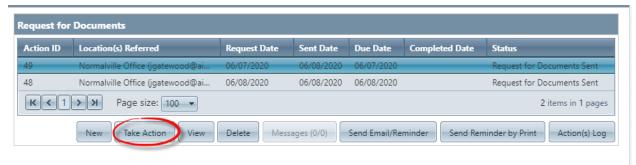


5. Click **Close**, then click **Go To Request** from the *Collaboration Messages* screen:

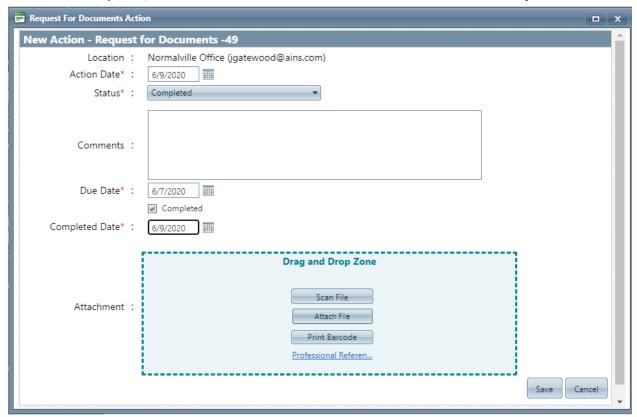




6. Click **Request for Documents** then select the request you just completed and click **Take Action**:

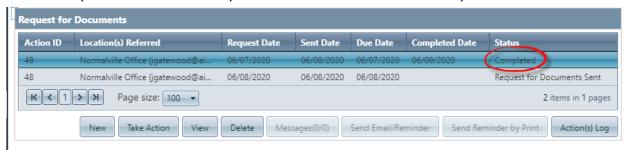


7. On the Request for Documents Action screen, under Status select Completed.





- 8. Check the **Completed** checkbox and enter the **Completed Date**.
- 9. Click **Save** to save the action. The status updated to *Completed*, and the RFD updates on the portal side to let the portal user know the task is complete:

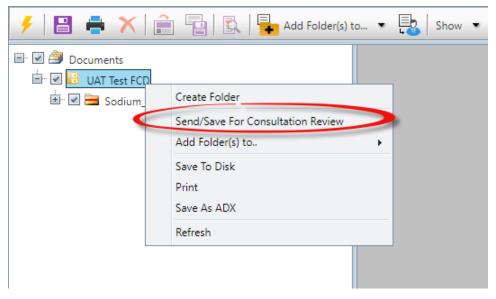


2.2 Consultation Reviews

2.2.1 Send Documents for Consultation Review

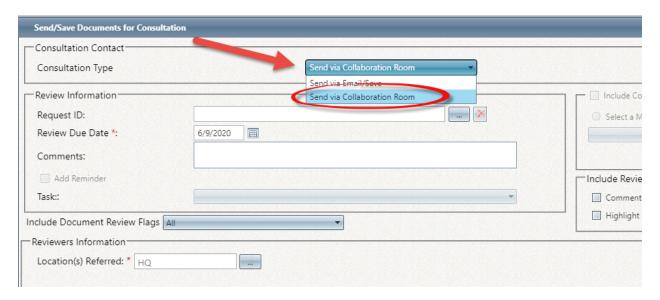
The Collaboration Portal allows you to send documents directly from Document Management to the portal for review. Follow the steps below to send documents for consultation:

- 1. First, open the folder you'd like to send in Document Management. In *Document Management*, select the **Document/Folder** to send for review and load any review layer you'd like to include.
- 2. Right click the Document/Folder and click Send/Save for Consultation Review:

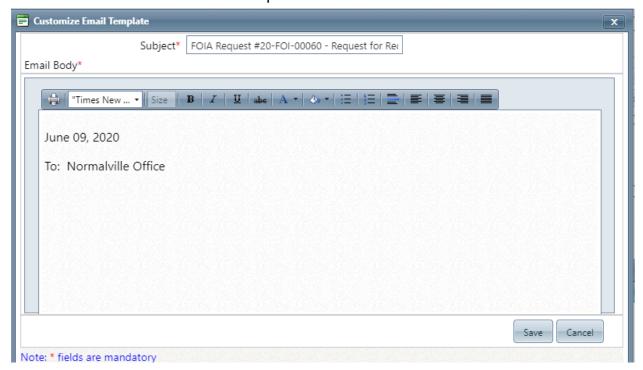


3. The Send/Save Documents for Consultation screen appears as shown below. First, under Consultation Type, you must select **Send via Collaboration Room.** This ensures the request is sent to the portal for consultation review:





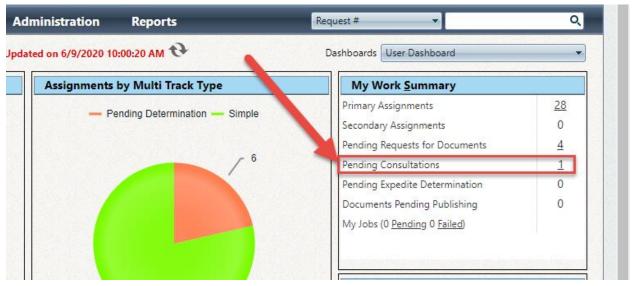
- 4. In the *Review Information* section, click the **Lookup** button to locate a request to associate with this consultation.
- 5. In the Reviewers Information, select an eligible Consultation Location.
- 6. Under *Email Template*, select a message template to send with the consultation. Click **Customize** to customize the template for this consultation:



- 7. In the *Customize Email Template* screen, edit the message however you need. When you're done, click **Save**.
- 8. When you've configured all the details on the *Send/Save Documents for Consultation* screen, click **OK** to continue.



9. The job processes, and on completion the consultation is sent to the portal. You can view the consultation from the *My Work Summary* section of the Home Page by clicking **Pending Consultations**:

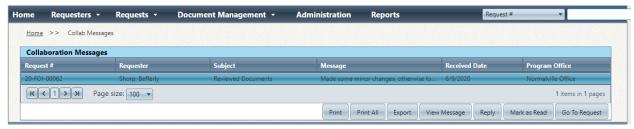


10. Follow the steps in the *Receiving Responsive Documents* section for details on receiving a Consultation Review from the portal.

2.2.2 Receiving a Consultation Review

When you receive a response to a consultation review sent to the portal, the easiest point of access is via your *Messages* on the Home Page. Follow the steps below to receive records provided from the portal. These steps apply to both *Consultation Reviews* and *Requests for Documents*.

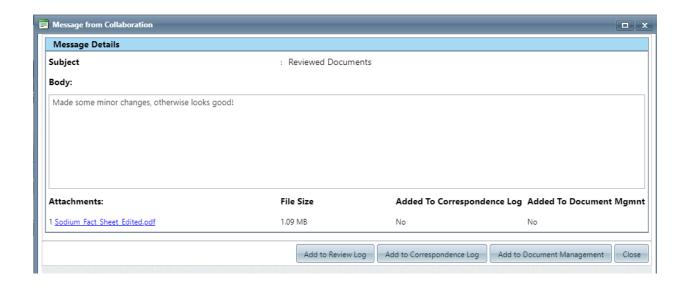
1. Click the **Messages from Collaboration Room** link on the *Home Page* to access your Collaboration Messages. The *Collaboration Messages* screen appears as shown below:



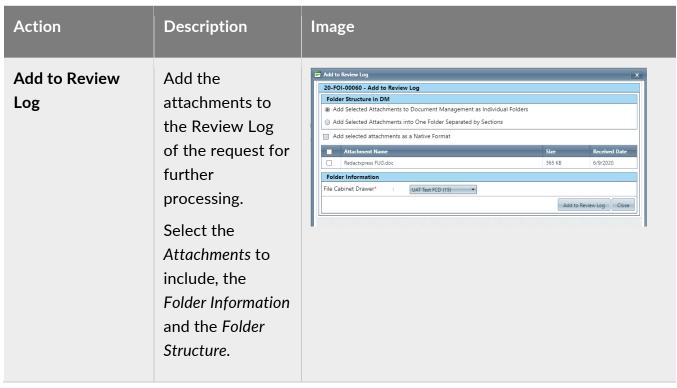
2. Select the new message and click **View Message**. The subject/body of the message should alert you that this message contains the responsive documents:



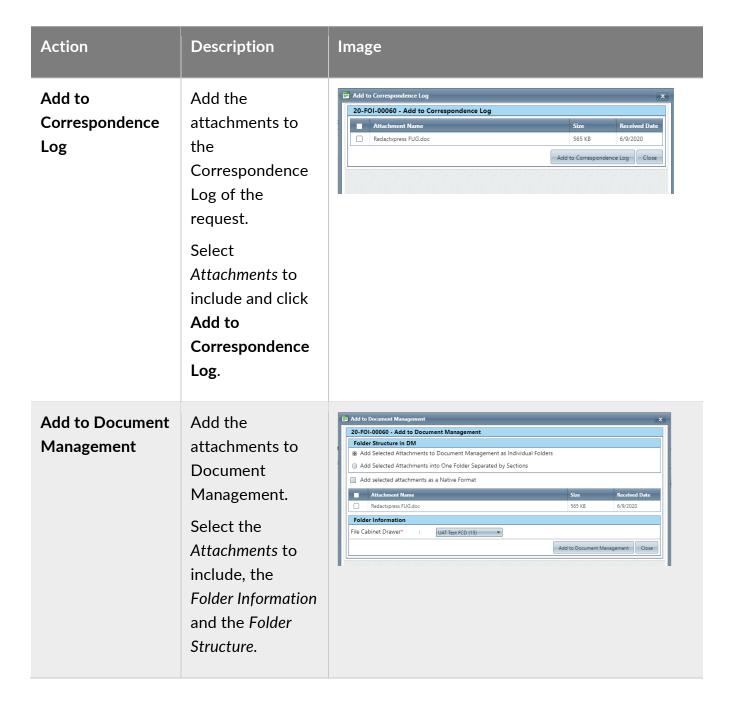
Collaboration for FOIAXpress Users



3. There are three options for moving the documents into FOIAXpress: Add to Review Log, Add to Correspondence Log, and Add to Document Management. Each is detailed in the following table:

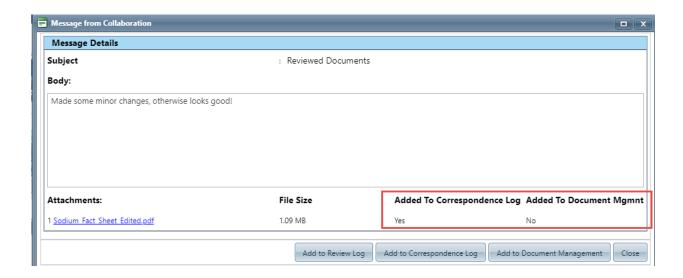




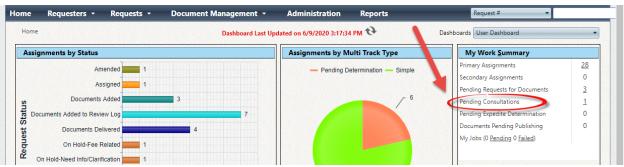


4. After adding attachments, the action is reflected on the *Message Details* screen as shown below:

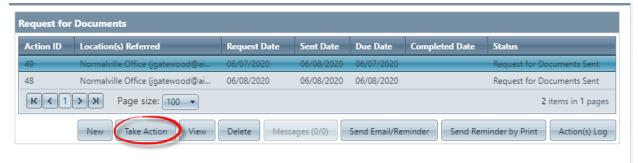




5. Click **Close**, then click **Home** to access the home screen. Under *My Work Summary*, select **Pending Consultations**:

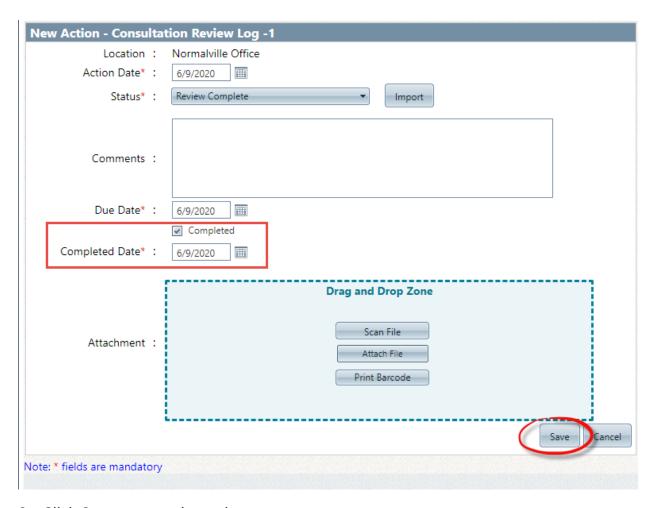


6. Select the request you just completed and click **Take Action**:



- 7. On the Take Action screen, under Status select Review Complete.
- 8. Check the **Completed** checkbox and enter the **Completed Date**.





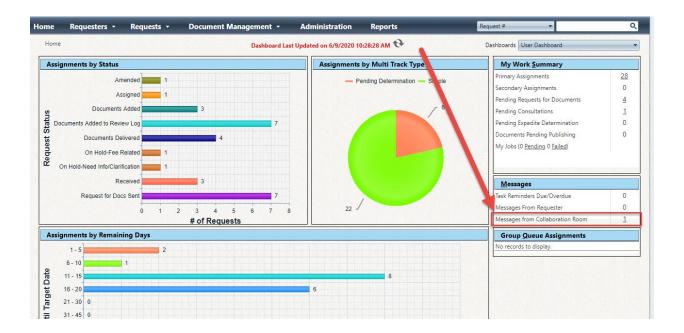
9. Click Save to save the action.

2.3 Correspondence

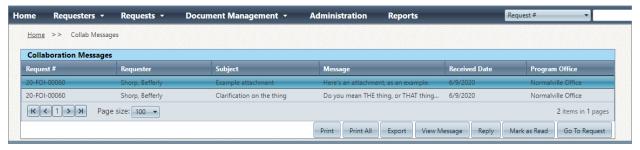
You can use the *Messages* feature to communicate with Portal users. Keep an eye on the *Messages* widget on the Home Page, where you can view **Messages from Collaboration Room**.

1. From the Home Page, click the **Messages from Collaboration Room** link to view messages received from the Collaboration Room.



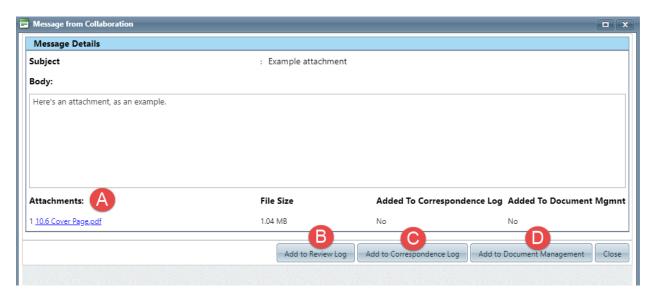


2. The *Collaboration Messages* screen appears as shown below. The screen includes a (A) list of messages received from the Collaboration Portal, as well as (B) Actions you can take on the messages, including **View Message**, **Reply, Mark as Read**, and **Go To Request**, which links directly to the associated Request.

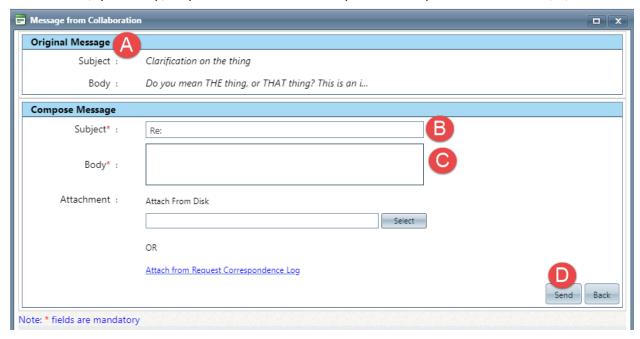


3. Select a message from the list and click **View Message** to view the message contents and details:





- 4. The Message Details includes the message Subject and Body. If the message includes any (A) Attachments, there are options to take these attachments and (B) Add to Review Log, (C) Add to Correspondence Log, or (D) Add to Document Management.
- 5. You can also click **Reply** to respond to the portal. The correspondence interface appears as shown below:
- 6. The (A) Original Message is present in the top portion of the screen. Enter your response in the Compose Message fields, providing both the (B) Subject and (C) Body, as well as (optionally) any Attachments. When you're ready to send it, click (D) Send:



7. If you click **Mark as Read** on a selected message, it is removed from this *Collaboration Messages* list.

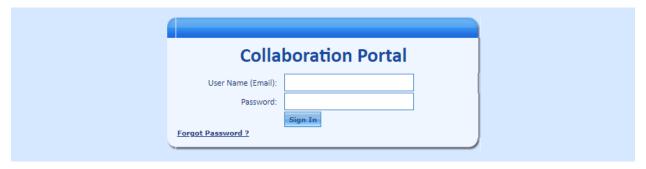


This section provides instructions for Collaboration Portal users to work on tasks received from FOIAXpress. The following topics are covered in this section:

- Accessing the Collaboration Portal: Logging in to the portal and an overview of the UI
- Requests for Documents: Details on receiving and fulfilling a Request for Documents.
- Consultation Reviews: How to complete and assigned Consultation Review using Collaboration.
- Sending Messages Using the Portal: Sending and receiving messages from the Portal

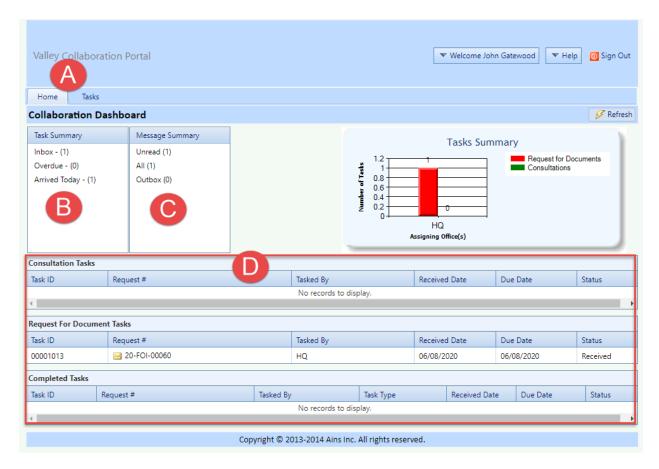
3.1 Accessing the Collaboration Portal

As a collaboration portal user, you will receive an email when your account is created, allowing you to log in to the portal. An example log in screen is shown below:



To access the portal, provide your email address (the one associated with the portal, where you received the initial email) as well as your password, then click **Sign In**. After signing in, the *Collaboration Dashboard* appears as shown below:





The main areas of the Dashboard are described in the following table:

Ref	Element	Description
А	Tabs	The dashboard contains two tabs: the main <i>Home</i> tab (where you land on login), as well as the <i>Tasks</i> tab, which consolidates all of your current tasks in one location
В	Task Summary	The <i>Task Summary</i> widget provides links to your Inbox , Overdue tasks, and tasks which Arrived Today
С	Message Summary	The Message Summary widget provides quick links to Unread messages, All of your messages, and your Outbox



Ref	Element	Description
D	Tasks	Ongoing Consultation Tasks and Request for Document Tasks are listed here. There is also a listing of your Completed tasks.

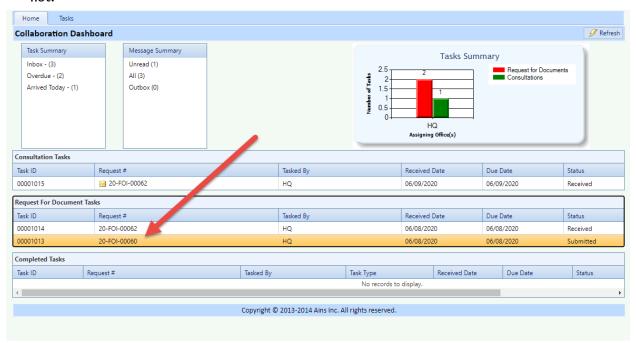
The next sections provide steps to complete Request for Documents Tasks, Consultation Tasks, and Sending Messages Using the Portal.

3.2 Request for Document Tasks

3.2.1 Responding to a Request for Documents Task

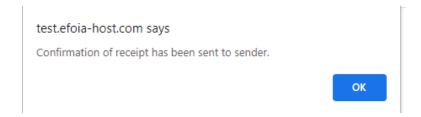
After you log in to the Collaboration Portal, there are a few indicators that a new request is waiting for you. New tasks arrive in your *Task Summary*, as an unread message in your *Message Summary*, and in your *Request for Document Tasks* list.

1. In this example, we'll double click the request listed in the *Request for Documents Task* list.

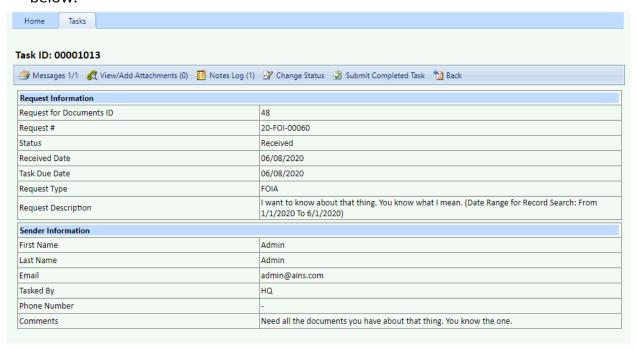


2. When you access a request for the first time, a pop up appears letting you know that confirmation of receipt has been sent to the person who sent you the RFD:



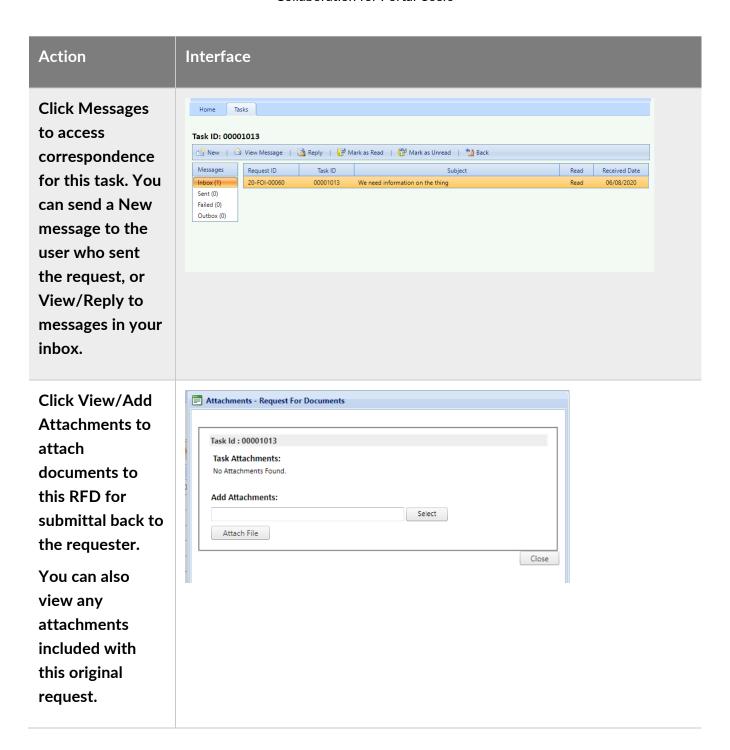


3. Click **OK** to dismiss the message and view the task. The *Tasks* tab appears as shown below:

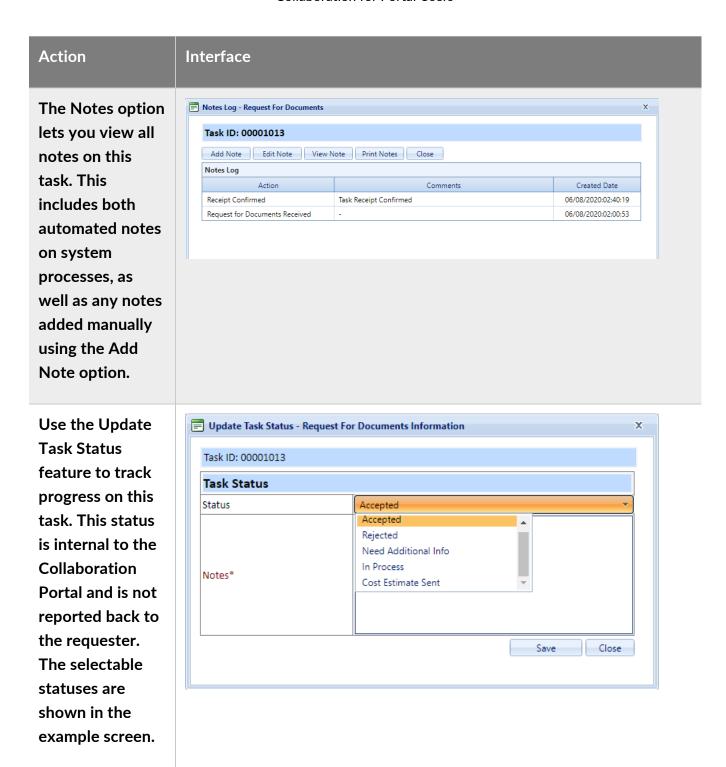


4. This includes all the information provided by the user who sent the RFD. This is also the screen where you'll take action to respond to this request. These actions are described below:

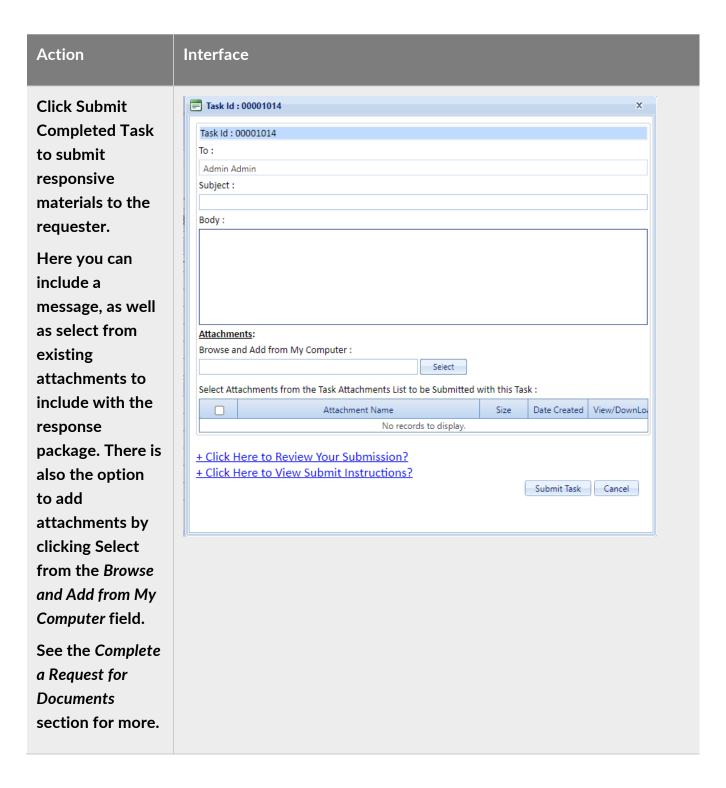






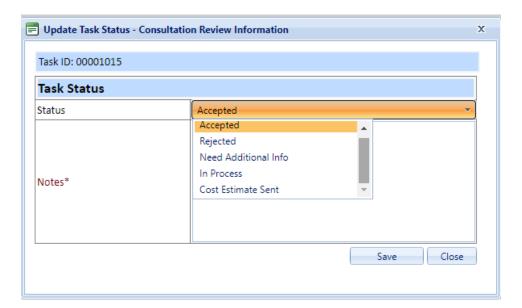






5. You can now opt to Accept or Reject this request. Click **Change Status** to mark this request as **Accepted** or **Rejected**:





(!!) Note: There are also options to select Need Additional Info, In Process, and Cost Estimate Sent.

- 6. If for whatever reason you cannot fulfill the request, select Rejected, otherwise select Accepted. Provide Notes (required regardless of the status you select), then click Save. In this example we will accept the request.
- 7. Use the tools available to collaborate and fulfill this request. This includes *Sending Messages Using the Portal*

3.2.2 Completing a Request for Documents Task

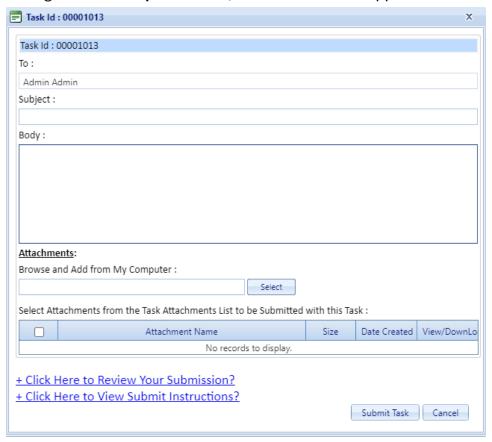
When you've gathered all responsive documents to fulfill a RFD and are ready to complete the task, use the **Submit Completed Task** feature. Follow the steps below to submit a completed task.

- 1. In the Collaboration Portal, open the *Request For Document Task* that you are ready to complete.
- 2. On the Tasks tab, click Submit Completed Task:





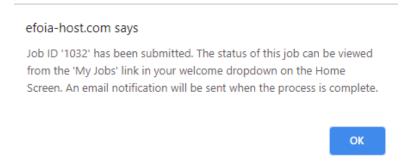
3. After clicking **Submit Completed** Task, the *Task Id* screen appears as shown below.



4. On this screen, provide the *Subject* and *Body* for the message that accompanies the completed Request.



- 5. In the Attachments field, use the **Select** button to upload documents to include with the completed request, or you can select attachments from this task to include in the response package.
- 6. There are also options to Click Here to Review Your Submission? And Click Here to View Submit Instructions.
- 7. When you're ready to submit click **Submit Task**. A pop up message appears as shown below:



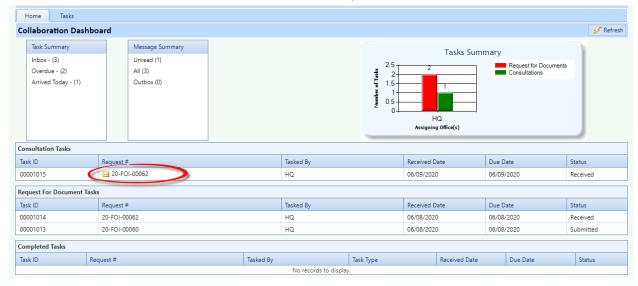
8. Click **OK** to dismiss the message. The *Tasks* tab refreshes, with the *Status* updated to *Submitted*. Additionally, the options to **Change Status** and **Submit Completed Task** are no longer available.

3.3 Consultation Tasks

3.3.1 Responding to a Consultation Task

Consultation Tasks arrive in the Consultation Tasks list on your Collaboration Portal Home tab.

1. When you receive a new Consultation Task, it appears in the list as shown below. Double click the new **Consultation Task** to open it.





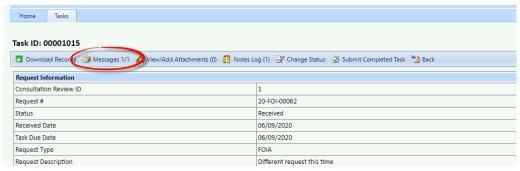
2. A pop up appears informing that the sender has been notified that you opened the task. Click **OK** to dismiss this message.

tva-test.efoia-host.com says

Confirmation of receipt has been sent to sender.

OK

3. The *Tasks* tab appears with the new task details. First, click **Messages** to view the message sent with this consultation:



4. Click **View Message** to view the message details:

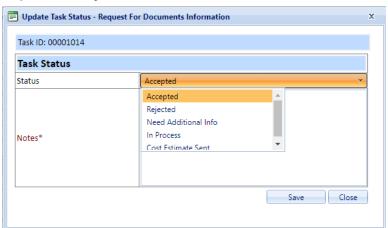


5. Review the details of the consultation request, then click **Close.**





- 6. The Status of the message updates to Read. Click Back to return to the Task Details.
- 7. You can now opt to Accept or Reject this request. Click **Change Status** to mark this request as **Accepted** or **Rejected**:



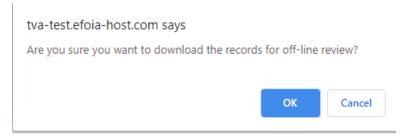
(!!) Note: There are also options to select *Need Additional Info*, *In Process*, and *Cost Estimate Sent*.

- 8. If for whatever reason you cannot fulfill the request, select **Rejected**, otherwise select **Accepted**. Provide **Notes** (required regardless of the status you select), then click **Save**. In this example we will accept the request.
- 9. The status updates to *Accepted*. Next, click **Download Records**. This allows you to access the materials provided for your review.





10.A pop up appears confirming that you'd like to download the records for review. Click **OK** to continue:



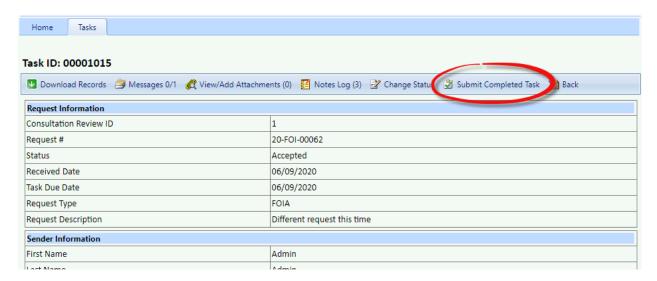
11. The download automatically begins. You can now conduct offline review of the materials. Once your review is complete, follow the steps in the *Completing a Consultation Task* section to complete the task.

3.3.2 Completing a Consultation Task

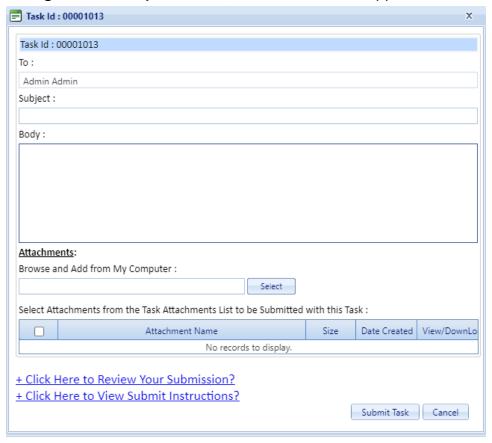
When you've completed the offline consultation review assigned to you in the Collaboration Portal, follow the steps below to submit the completed task.

- 1. In the Collaboration Portal, open the Collaboration Task that you are ready to complete.
- 2. On the *Task* tab, click **Submit Completed Task**:





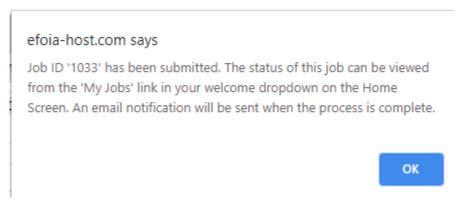
3. After clicking **Submit Completed** Task, the *Task Id* screen appears as shown below.



- 4. On this screen, provide the *Subject* and *Body* for the message that accompanies the completed Consultation Task.
- 5. In the Attachments field, use the **Select** button to upload the reviewed documents to be included with the completed request.



- 6. There are also options to Click Here to Review Your Submission? and Click Here to View Submit Instructions.
- 7. When you're ready to submit click **Submit Task**. A pop up message appears as shown below:

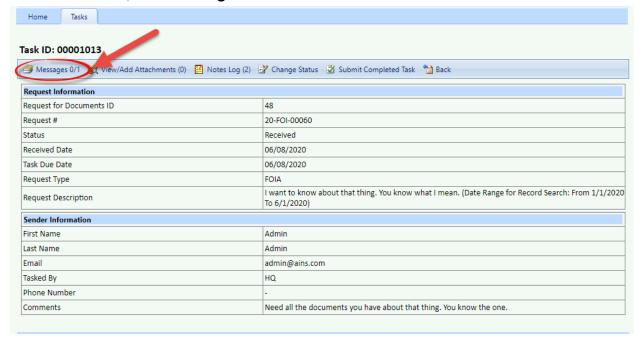


8. Click **OK** to dismiss the message. The *Tasks* tab refreshes, with the *Status* updated to *Submitted*. Additionally, the options to **Change Status** and **Submit Completed Task** are no longer available.

3.4 Sending Messages Using the Portal

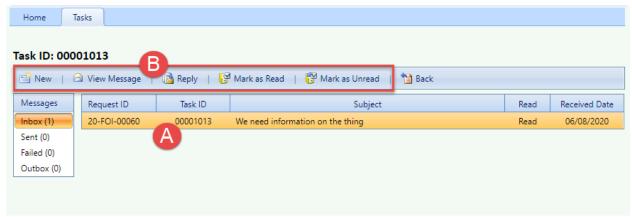
You can use the Collaboration Portal to communicate with the requester, share attachments, or update the status of the request. Follow the steps below to use the *Messages* feature:

1. Open a Task, either an RFD or a Consultation. The process is the same for both. From the *Tasks* tab, click **Messages**:

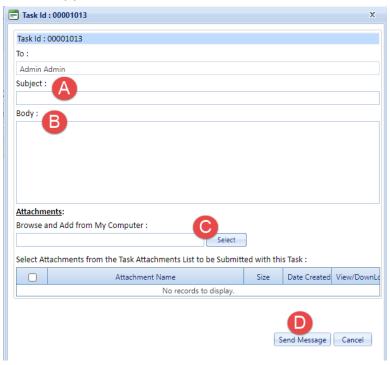




2. The *Messages* screen includes a (A) list of all messages received for this task (click **Outbox** to see any sent messages), as well as (B) Actions you can take:



- 3. You can select a message from the list and click to **View Message**, click **Reply** to reply to the selected message, or toggle the *Read* status for the selected message by clicking **Mark as Read** or **Mark as Unread**.
- 4. You can also send a message to the requester. Click **New** to send a new message. The *New Message* screen appears as shown below:





- 5. First enter a (A) Subject, fill in the message (B) Body, and add any (C) Attachments if needed. While you can attach documents, you should provide all responsive documents as part of the request completion process. See the Complete a Request Details section for steps to provide responsive documents.
- 6. When you're ready, click (**D**) **Send Message** to send the message to the requester in FX. The message appears in the *Outbox*, and after processing, is viewable by clicking your **Sent** messages:



(!!) Note: If an error occurs when sending a message, it appears under the Failed messages.

3.5 Using Attachments in Tasks

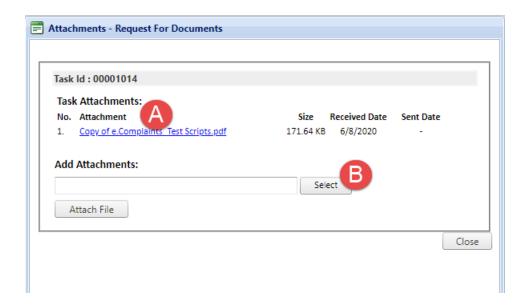
Completing tasks assigned to you will require adding attachments to messages and task submissions. Regardless of how you access the *Attachments* function, the steps are the same. Follow the example below to use *Attachments*.

1. Open any Task. On the Tasks tab, click View/Add Attachments:

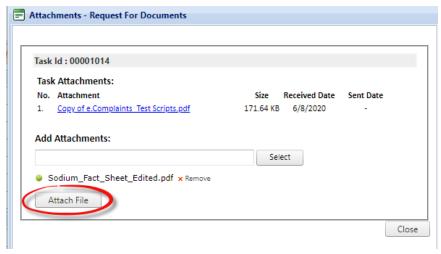


2. The Attachments screen appears. Included here are a (A) Task Attachments list with all current attachments (if any), as well as space to (B) Add Attachments:



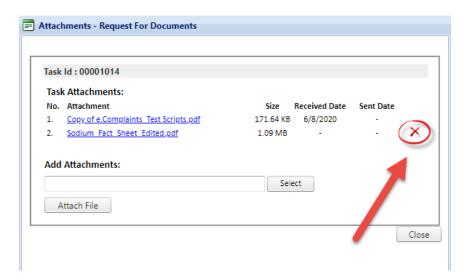


- 3. To add an attachment to the Task, first click **Select**. This opens an explorer window to locate the attachment you'd like to add. Locate the record(s) and click **Open**.
- 4. In the Attachments window, the selected files are listed under the Add Attachments field. When all attachments are listed, click **Attach File**.

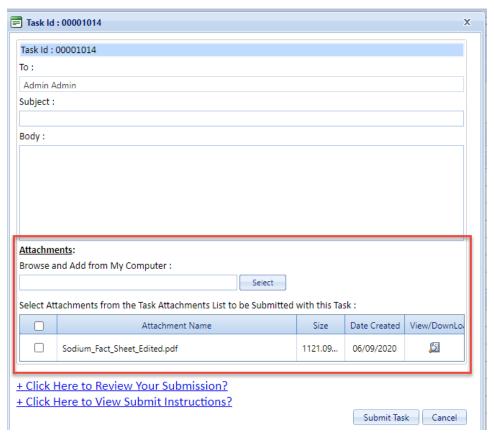


5. The selected file is added to the *Task Attachments* list. You can also click the **X** next to any attachment to remove it from the Task:





- (!!) Note: You can only delete records you've attached to this task.
 - 6. A similar Attachments interface also appears when using the **Submit Completed Task** function:

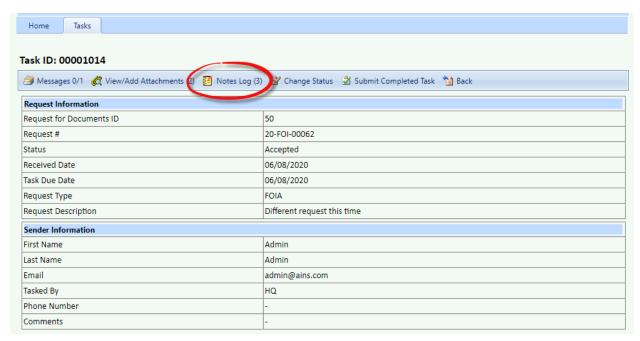


7. Here you can click **Select** to add new attachments to the submission, or select existing attachments added through the **View/Add Attachments** interface.

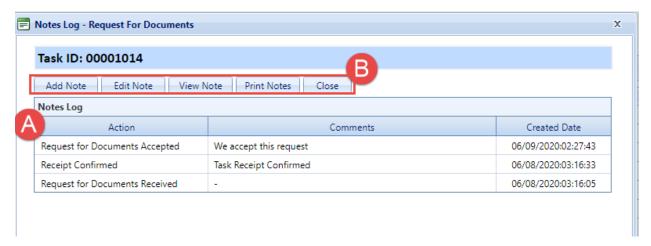


3.6 Notes Log

Both Requests for Documents and Consultation Tasks include a *Notes Log* to document actions taken on these tasks. You can access the *Notes Log* from within a *Task* by click the **Notes Log** as shown in the following example:

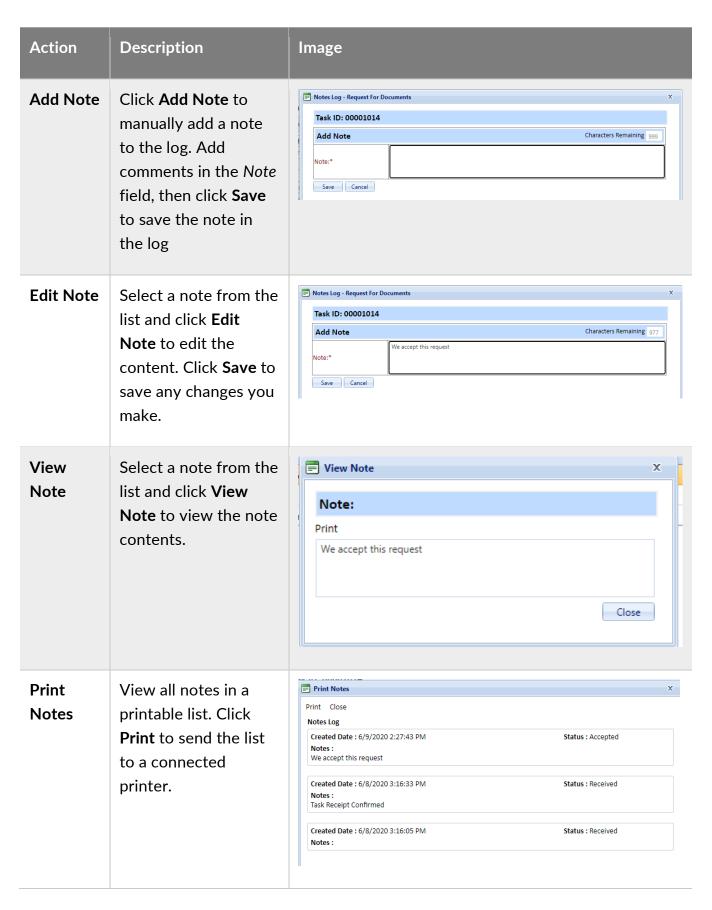


The *Notes Log* appears as shown below. This screen includes a (A) Notes Log with the actions taken in filling this request. There are also several (B) Actions you can take on the log.



You can take actions on notes by selecting a note from the (A) Log and selecting an (B) Action. These are described below:







Action	Description	Image
Close	Click Close to close the <i>Notes Log</i> .	

