

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

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ACTION OFFICE: ~~EDO~~ *CFo*

AUTHOR: Maurice McTigue

AFFILIATION: VA

ADDRESSEE: Nils Diaz

SUBJECT: Provides copy of the 5th Annual Performance Report Scorecard: Which Federal Agencies Best Inform the Public

ACTION: Appropriate

DISTRIBUTION: RF....Encls to: CFO

LETTER DATE: 04/14/2004

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: Publicly available in ADAMS via SECY/DPC

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE:

DATE SIGNED:

MERCATUS CENTER

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

April 14, 2004

Dr. Nils J. Diaz
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Diaz:

Enclosed is a copy of *5th Annual Performance Report Scorecard: Which Federal Agencies Best Inform the Public?*

This publication, produced by the Mercatus Center's Government Accountability Project, provides a summary evaluation of the quality of fiscal year 2003 performance reports of the 24 Cabinet departments and other agencies covered by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, and ranks them in order of reporting quality. As you may know, this year's study revealed that the average score has increased and agencies improved in their ability to articulate outcome-oriented goals. However, agencies still fall short in producing outcome-oriented performance measures and linking costs with results.

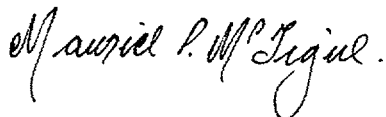
The research team for this study, which I led along with Mercatus Center senior research fellow Dr. Jerry Ellig, evaluated the documents based on the following criteria: 1) transparency; 2) benefits to the community; and 3) forward-looking leadership. Agency reports were then ranked according to total score.

On April 14th we released our findings at a briefing on Capitol Hill attended by nearly one hundred media, federal agency, congressional and other public and private sector representatives. The event featured David Walker—Comptroller General of the United States and the nation's Chief Accountability Officer. Mr. Walker shared his belief that “without full transparency of funding decisions and the outcomes of those decisions, the pinnacle of accountability is impossible to achieve. Agency annual performance and accountability reports create an avenue for communication to decision makers and the public, which should not be ignored.”

To download additional copies of our report, or view the streaming video of the briefing, please visit www.GovernmentAccountability.org. In the interest of full disclosure, the website also includes links to agency reports.

I hope you find our observations and comments helpful. If you have further questions or wish to discuss our findings further, please contact my colleague Jen Ivy at 703-993-4923 or jivy@gmu.edu.

Sincerely,



Maurice McTigue, QSO
Director, Government Accountability Project