

MERCATUS CENTER  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

September 18, 2006

Mr. Jesse Funches  
Chief Financial Officer  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Two White Flint North Building, Room T9F1  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Funches,

The Mercatus Center at George Mason University will once again evaluate and rank the annual performance reports of Cabinet departments and agencies covered under the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 that are submitted in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). The results of our evaluation of the fiscal year 2006 reports will be published next spring in our 8<sup>th</sup> *Annual Performance Report Scorecard: Which Federal Agencies Best Inform the Public?*

Our goal for the Annual Performance Report Scorecard is to encourage continual improvement in the quality of information provided to Congress, the President, and the public regarding the effectiveness of agency activities. As a result of this improvement, we believe policymakers will make more informed funding and policy decisions. We would like to emphasize that the Mercatus Center is not attempting to judge agency performance; our focus is on promoting transparency and full disclosure of the year's performance.

Our research team at the Mercatus Center will judge the annual reports according to the following three criteria: *transparency, benefits to the community, and forward-looking leadership*. This is the same criteria we have applied each year; however, please note that scores reflect the quality of each agency's report relative to other agencies' reports for the same fiscal year. Because scoring is relative, standards rise annually with the level of performance of the "role model agencies" for each criterion. Each year, the best reports raise the bar, establishing a new standard to which all should aspire. Thus, while the criteria remain essentially the same, the quality of reporting required to achieve a good score continually increases, provided that the best in each criterion betters the previous year's leader.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> *Annual Performance Report Scorecard: Which Agencies Best Inform the Public?* will be released in April 2007. In order to be included in our fiscal year 2006 evaluation, we must receive a copy of your annual performance report no later than December 1, 2006. In addition, reports must be posted on the web by December 15, 2006 in order to earn credit on the transparency portion of our criteria.

A description of our criteria can be found under the link for the "Annual Performance Report Scorecard" on our website, [www.governmentaccountability.org](http://www.governmentaccountability.org). Questions and comments are always welcome; please contact me at [mmctigue@gmu.edu](mailto:mmctigue@gmu.edu) or my colleague, Heather Hambleton, at 703-993-4911 or [hwier@gmu.edu](mailto:hwier@gmu.edu).

Thank you for your continued participation in our study.

Sincerely,

  
Maurice McTigue  
Director, Government Accountability Project

Cc: Rick Baum

Jesse  
Pete  
Denny  
Les  
Michelle  
George  
file