



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC SEEKS INPUT ON OPEN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is asking the public for input on what information or data would be useful for the agency to publish online and what transparency, public participation and collaboration improvements NRC should consider in developing its Open Government Plan. Although the agency has a longstanding commitment to openness and transparency in conducting its business, it is taking this opportunity to expand and strengthen that commitment in serving the public and to support the Office of Management and Budget's Open Government Directive.

The Directive, issued Dec. 8, helps implement the President's Jan. 21 memorandum on transparency and open government. It calls for federal agencies to address four objectives for creating a more open government: 1) publish government information online, 2) improve the quality of government information available to the public, 3) create and institutionalize a culture of open government, and 4) create an enabling policy framework for open government. According to the Directive, each agency will also develop and publish an Open Government Plan that describes how the agency will improve transparency and integrate public participation and collaboration into its activities. The Plan is to have at least one specific, new "flagship" initiative as well as extensive public and employee engagement in the Plan's formulation.

"Our mission of ensuring public health and safety and protecting the environment is best served by promoting public participation, providing high-quality and timely information, making decisions in a transparent manner, and building accountability into everything we do," said NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko. "Accordingly, we welcome this initiative and are committed to continuous improvement in our responsiveness, our communications, and our public engagement."

The Directive is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/open/documents/open-government-directive>.

As one of its initial steps, the NRC will launch an Open Government Web page on its site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/open> by Feb. 6, 2010, to serve as the gateway for agency activities related to the Open Government Directive. Through this Web page, the public will have an opportunity to provide input to the agency's Open Government Plan as well as other open-government matters.

Because the Directive's terms ask agencies to publish "high value" data by Jan. 22, 2010, comments on that topic should be submitted as soon as possible. However, late comments may be considered for additional data that NRC may publish at a later date. Comments pertaining to NRC's Open Government Plan may be submitted either before or after the plan that is to be published by April 7.

The public may view the NRC *Federal Register* notice at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fedreg/notices/2010.html> where there is detailed information on this initiative and how to submit comments.

Comments may be submitted electronically through the www.regulations.gov Web site using Docket ID: NRC-2010-0003; in writing to Michael T. Lesar, Chief, Rulemaking and Directives Branch, Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; or by fax to (301) 492-3446. Questions regarding the Open Government initiative's implementation at NRC should be directed to James B. Schaeffer, (301) 415-7330, james.schaeffer@nrc.gov.

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