U.S.NRC
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Open Government Plan

Revision 1.1
June 7, 2010

Message from the Chairman

I am pleased to present the first Open Government Plan for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Our agency has a long history of, and commitment to, openness with the public and transparency in its regulatory process. We welcome the opportunity to support President Obama's Open Government Initiative and to implement the Directive issued by the Office of Management and Budget on December 8, 2009.

As you will read in our plan, we are committed to continuing to improve transparency and more fully integrating public participation and collaboration into our activities.

New technologies provide the means for the NRC to take our practices to the next level. Web-based technologies have the potential to transform the way we interact with the public and our many stakeholders. From increased use of Webcasting and Web conferencing, to the introduction of Web-based tools to engage our stakeholders in public dialogue, the NRC is fully committed to using technology to help the public better understand and participate in our work.

Please join me in helping the NRC, and the Federal government as a whole, advance the principles of open government. I encourage you to review our Open Government Plan and continue to share your ideas with us. Our goal is to incorporate your feedback to help us continue to improve the way we regulate nuclear materials to protect people and the environment. We will be sure to keep you up-to-date with our progress.

Gregory B. Jaczko

Chairman, Gregory B. Jaczko

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 1
I. Introduction 2
II. Leadership, Governance, and Change Management 3
A. History of Openness at the NRC 3
1. Principles of Good Regulation 3
2. Strategic Plan 3
3. Organizational Values 4
4. Open, Collaborative Working Environment 4
B. Taking Openness to the Next Level 4
1. Leadership and Governance 4
2. Change Management 5
III. Transparency 6
A. What We're Doing Now 6
1. Policies, Performance Measures, and Management Controls 6
2. The NRC's Key Information Dissemination Channels 7
3. Participation in Federal Transparency Initiatives 11
B. Action Plan for Improving Transparency 13
1. High-Value Datasets 13
2. Policy Changes 15
3. Expansion of Webstreaming 15
4. Public Communications 15
5. Improvements to ADAMS 15
6. Improvements to the NRC Public Web Site 16
IV. Participation 16
A. What We're Doing Now 17
1. Public Meetings and Outreach 17
2. Hearings 17
3. Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops 18
4. NRC Web Sites Promoting Public Participation 19
B. Action Plan for Improving Participation 19
1. Public Meetings 19
2. New Communications Tools for the ADAMS User Group 20
V. Collaboration 21
A. What We're Doing Now 21
1. Federal Regulatory Partnerships 21
2. States and Native American Tribal Governments 24
3. International Activities 26
4. Nonprofit and Private Entities 27
B. Action Plan for Improving Collaboration 28
1. Using Technology Platforms to Improve Collaboration 28
2. Innovative Methods To Increase External Collaboration 30
VI. Flagship Initiative— Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement 31
A. Overview of the Initiative 31
B. Engagement of the Public and Interested Parties 34
C. Collaboration with External Partners 35
D. Measuring Improved Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration 35
E. Sustaining the Initiative and Allowing for Continued Improvement 36

VII. Public and Agency Involvement 36
A. Public Involvement 36
B. Employee Involvement 37
C. How the NRC Will Use the Ideas 37
Appendix A: The NRC's Key Web Pages Supporting Open Government 38
Appendix B: Compliance with Legal Requirements for Information Dissemination 45
Appendix C: High-Value Datasets 47
Appendix D: NRC Open Government Milestone Table 52
Appendix E: List of Web Addresses for Hyperlinks Used in the Plan 53
Appendix F: Summary of Public Comments 56

Executive Summary

On December 8, 2009, Peter R. Orszag, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), sent a memorandum to the heads of executive departments and agencies directing them to take specific actions to implement the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration set forth in the President's Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, dated January 21, 2009. Because of its long history of openness, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) welcomes this opportunity and plans to participate fully in the President's Open Government Initiative.

One of the actions identified by OMB was the development and publication of Open Government Plans describing how each agency will "improve transparency and integrate public participation and collaboration into its activities."[1] In response, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has developed this plan and published it on its NRC Open Government Web page.

The plan has seven sections: an introduction; a section on the leadership, governance, and change management; one section each on transparency, participation, and collaboration; a section describing the agency's flagship initiative for open government; and a section describing how the NRC has engaged and will continue to engage the public and agency employees to achieve continuous improvement of the plan. Six appendices cover the NRC's key Web pages supporting open government, how the agency complies with the information dissemination requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, current and planned publication of high-value datasets, the key milestones in the NRC's Open Government Plan, the list of Web addresses for hyperlinks used in the plan, and a summary of public comments as of March 19, 2010, the closing date of the Federal pilot of the citizen-engagement tool, IdeaScale.

Since its creation in 1975, the NRC has viewed openness as a critical element for achieving the agency's mission to regulate the Nation's civilian use of radioactive materials and thereby protect people and the environment. As a result, the agency has built a strong foundation of openness policies and practices that guide its regulatory activities. New technologies now provide the means for the NRC to take these practices to the next level. While still in the early stages of this evolution, the NRC recognizes the potential of these Web-based technologies to transform the way it interacts with the public and its many stakeholders to advance the principles of open government.

[1] Open Government Directive, Section 3a, page 4.

I. Introduction

On December 8, 2009, Peter R. Orszag, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), sent a memorandum to the heads of executive departments and agencies directing them to take certain actions to implement the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration set forth in the President's Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government dated January 21, 2009. Although independent agencies are not strictly bound by the OMB Open Government Directive, the President's January 21 memorandum states that "independent agencies should comply" with it. Because of its long history of openness, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) welcomes this opportunity and plans to participate fully in the President's Open Government Initiative.

The Open Government Directive addresses four general subjects: (1) publishing government information online; (2) improving the quality of government information; (3) creating and institutionalizing a culture of open government; and (4) creating a policy framework to better enable open government. To create and institutionalize a culture of open government (item 3 above), the memorandum states that "within 120 days [April 7, 2010] each agency shall develop an Open Government Plan that describes how the agency will improve transparency and integrate public participation and collaboration into its activities." Consistent with the Open Government Directive, the NRC has developed this Open Government Plan and has made it available on the NRC's Open Government Web page in an open format that enables the public to download, analyze and visualize the document.

The NRC intends to build upon the foundation of this plan as it continues to enhance its levels of transparency, participation, and collaboration with its employees, stakeholders, and the public. In accordance with the Open Government Directive, the NRC will update this plan every 2 years.

The plan has seven sections: an introduction; a section on the leadership, governance, and change management; one section each on transparency, participation, and collaboration; a section describing the agency's flagship initiative for open government; and a section describing how the NRC has engaged and will continue to engage the public and agency employees to achieve continuous improvement of the plan. Six appendices cover the NRC's key Web pages supporting open government, how the agency complies with the information dissemination requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, current and planned publication of high-value datasets, the key milestones in the NRC's Open Government Plan, the list of Web addresses for hyperlinks used in the plan, and a summary of public comments.

To complete the plan, the NRC created an interdisciplinary Open Government Working Group with participants from each major office across the agency. This group included representatives with public affairs, information technology (IT), human resources, financial, legal, and policy expertise. To support collaboration by working group members and facilitate broader staff involvement in developing the agency's Open Government Plan, the working group created a team collaboration site accessible by all NRC staff.

For more information about the NRC's Open Government initiatives, please contact Francine Goldberg, Senior Advisor for IT Strategy and Communications, Office of Information Services at Francine.Goldberg@nrc.gov, or Elizabeth Hayden, Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of Public Affairs at Elizabeth.Hayden@nrc.gov.

II. Leadership, Governance, and Change Management

This section covers the NRC's history of openness and the overarching leadership, governance, and change management framework needed to build on this foundation to take openness to the next level.

A. History of Openness at the NRC

The Open Government Directive states: "To create an unprecedented and sustained level of openness and accountability in every agency, senior leaders should strive to incorporate the values of transparency, participation, and collaboration into the ongoing work of their agency." For the past 35 years, the NRC has demonstrated a commitment to the values underlying an open government. This is illustrated through its emphasis on openness in its "Principles of Good Regulation," its Strategic Plan, its organizational values, and its overall commitment to maintaining an open, collaborative working environment.

1. Principles of Good Regulation

In 1977, the NRC issued a document entitled "Principles of Good Regulation," that has guided the agency in conducting its regulatory activities. One of these principles, openness, states that "nuclear regulation is the public's business, and it must be transacted publicly and candidly. The public must be informed about and have the opportunity to participate in the regulatory processes as required by law. Open channels of communication must be maintained with Congress, other government agencies, licensees, and the public, as well as with the international nuclear community."

2. Strategic Plan

The following excerpt from the NRC's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-2013 demonstrates the importance of open government principles in achieving the agency's mission and strategic goals.

> *"The NRC views nuclear regulation as the public's business and, as such, believes it should be transacted as openly and candidly as possible to maintain and enhance the public's confidence. Ensuring appropriate openness explicitly recognizes that the public must be informed about, and have a reasonable opportunity to participate meaningfully in, the NRC's regulatory processes. At the same time the NRC must also control sensitive information so that security goals are met."*

Additionally the Strategic Plan contains five openness strategies:

- Enhance awareness of the NRC's independent role in protecting public health and safety, the environment, and the common defense and security;
- Provide accurate and timely information to the public about the NRC's mission, regulatory activities, and performance and about the uses of, and risks associated with, radioactive materials;
- Provide for fair, timely, and meaningful stakeholder involvement in NRC decision-making without disclosing classified, safeguards, proprietary, and sensitive unclassified information;
- Communicate about the NRC's role, processes, activities, and decisions in plain language that is clear and understandable to the public; and
- Initiate early communication with stakeholders on issues of substantial interest.

3. Organizational Values

Openness is also one of the agency's seven organizational values. These values, adopted by the NRC in 1995, are significant contributors to the organizational culture that has helped the NRC to be ranked first in the "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government"[2] in each of the past two surveys (2007 and 2009). The NRC's openness value means that while conducting work, agency employees are expected to be transparent and forthright in all of their actions.

4. Open, Collaborative Working Environment

A free and open discussion of differing professional views is essential to the development of sound regulatory policy and decisions. As such, the NRC strives to establish and maintain an open, collaborative working environment (OCWE) that encourages all employees and contractors to promptly voice differing views without fear of retaliation. At the NRC, management encourages trust, respect, and open communication to promote a positive work environment that maximizes the potential of all individuals and improves regulatory decision-making.

The NRC Open Door Policy (first communicated to agency employees in 1976), the NRC Differing Professional Opinions Program (formally established in 1980), and the NRC Non-Concurrence Process (established in 2006) illustrate the NRC's commitment to the free and open discussion of professional views. These policies permit employees at all levels in all areas to provide professional views on virtually all matters pertaining to the agency's mission.

B. Taking Openness to the Next Level

As discussed above, the NRC has a firm foundation of openness in its regulatory processes dating from its inception in 1975. More information about the NRC's many accomplishments in implementing the core principles of openness (i.e., transparency, participation, and collaboration) are addressed throughout this plan. Today's challenge is to modify existing stakeholder engagement processes by effectively applying new technologies to increase transparency, broaden participation, and strengthen collaboration. Taking openness to this next level will require leadership, governance, and a change management process that effectively engages both NRC employees and stakeholders.

1. Leadership and Governance

NRC has much of the governance structure in place to effect the President's vision and will leverage existing governance structures, councils and work units to manage and implement the Open Government Directive and the agency's Open Government Plan. The NRC has designated its Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Management (DEDCM) as the agency lead for open government and as the agency's Senior Accountability Official. The Information Technology Senior Advisory Council (ITSAC) will provide senior level guidance for NRC's open government program. The ITSAC is chaired by the DEDCM and is composed of senior executives from the major NRC organizational components, including the programmatic areas, the General Counsel, human resources, and financial management organizations. The ITSAC will be periodically briefed and consulted on open government policy issues, priorities, measures, and major initiatives.

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[2] Produced by the Partnership for Public Service and American University's Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation (See http://data.bestplacestowork.org/bptw/index)

To provide operational oversight, performance assessment and progress reporting, an Open Government Advisory Group has been established. The Open Government Advisory Group consists of a core team with representatives from the Office of Public Affairs, the Office of the Executive Director of Operations, and the Office of Information Services. The Advisory Group is jointly chaired by these offices. The Advisory Group is augmented by representation from each program and support office and the regions, as required. The Open Government Advisory Group oversees implementation of the Agency's Open Government Plan and Program, including:

- Monitoring progress of the agency's Flagship Initiative
- Monitoring plan commitments, including publication of high-value datasets
- Approving significant changes to the plan
- Planning agency response to administration guidance and directives related to Open Government
- Providing recommendations and advice to the DEDCM on Open Government program direction, as appropriate
- Overseeing the agency's internal and public Open Government Web sites
- Reporting periodically on the "state-of-health" of the Agency's Open Government Plan to the DEDCM.
- Overseeing disposition of public and staff comments received
- Overseeing publication of agency actions on comments received

Other key infrastructure components include the agency's Information Technology Business Council, which reviews the business case for any new technology the agency may decide to acquire; the NRC Communication Council, a group with expertise on both internal and external communication; and information technology and information management resources from the Offices of Information Services and Computer Security. These infrastructure components will be brought to bear, as needed, on the initiatives overseen or sponsored by the Open Government Advisory Group to achieve the goals of open government.

2. Change Management

The NRC recognizes that without a change management process, systemic change will not happen. Although the NRC has a strong culture of openness, infusing the use of new technologies into the agency's existing public outreach and engagement activities will require a concerted focus on change management. Examples of change management activities include the following:

- implement communications plans to inform and engage the staff and the public about the new approaches and the benefits they can bring;
- identify useful Web-based tools to enhance existing practices for achieving transparency, participation, and collaboration;
- help the NRC program staff to pilot the new tools for use in openness processes that support the agency's strategic goals;
- institutionalize new policies and practices, where necessary; and
- acquire the best tools for agencywide use and provide the necessary training and support.

III. Transparency

The NRC has a long-standing practice of conducting its regulatory responsibilities in an open and transparent manner to keep the public informed of the agency's regulatory, licensing, and oversight activities. Section III.A describes what the NRC is already doing to promote transparency in its operations, including: (1) its policies, management controls, and performance measures; (2) its key information dissemination channels; and (3) its participation in Federal transparency initiatives. Section III.B provides an action plan for improving transparency through the publication of high-value datasets, policy changes, expansion of Web streaming, use of new tools for public communication, and improvements to the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) and the NRC public Web site.

> ***"Transparency promotes accountability by providing the public with information about what the Government is doing."*** *(Open Government Directive)*

A. What We're Doing Now

As part of the agency's commitment to be an open and transparent regulator, the NRC strives to meet both the letter and the spirit of Federal information dissemination requirements. This commitment requires disciplined policies, performance measures and management controls, easy-to-access information, and support of Federal initiatives promoting transparency. The following sections address each of these areas.

1. Policies, Performance Measures, and Management Controls

The NRC values openness in its interactions with its employees, stakeholders, and the public. To translate this commitment into action, the NRC has implemented specific policies, management controls, and performance measures. It is NRC policy to make nonsensitive documents public unless there is a specific reason not to do so. In addition, the agency policy stated in NRC Management Directive 3.4, "Release of Information to the Public," dated February 6, 2009, requires most documents to be released to the public within 6 business days after issuance.

The NRC is committed to ensuring that its information, most of which is in the form of documents, is complete, accurate, and of the highest quality. One way the agency does this is through practices that require capture of agency records in a centralized system known as ADAMS. The agency has stringent policies and management controls to ensure that this system captures the final record copy of internally generated documents. Once an internally generated document has been finalized and has met all publication criteria, it is automatically copied into the ADAMS public record library accessible from the NRC public Web site. In addition, the vast majority of externally generated documents sent to the NRC (e.g., from licensees and others) are entered into ADAMS through a centralized intake process. This process provides a high degree of assurance that these documents are captured, screened for any security or privacy issues or proprietary data, and made available to the public in a timely manner. Furthermore, the NRC's public Web site policy requires that, to the extent possible, NRC document Web addresses point to the document in the ADAMS public library rather than to a duplicate (and possibly erroneous) copy.

The agency's practices for ensuring the quality and integrity of its information are consistent with OMB and NRC-specific information quality guidelines, as required by Section 515(a) of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554). Members of the public who believe they have found an error in NRC-published information may use the procedures in the NRC's Information Quality Guidelines to seek a correction.

One of the ways the NRC holds itself accountable for ensuring transparency is by including a composite information dissemination timeliness measure in its annual performance report to Congress. This measure is composed of four submeasures related to the timeliness of the agency's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) responses, issuance of public meeting notices, public release of internally generated public documents, and public release of externally generated documents. The agency improved on all four of these measures in FY 2009 and met the agency-established targets for the first three. For additional discussion on the fourth measure, see section III. B. 2.

2. The NRC's Key Information Dissemination Channels

The most important NRC information dissemination channels are the agency's public document system (ADAMS), the NRC public Web site, Web-based access to public meetings and hearings, the NRC's Public Document Room, and the FOIA program. These channels are described below.

a. The NRC's Public Document System

The NRC was the first Federal agency to provide the public with electronic access to all of its public documents through its groundbreaking deployment of the ADAMS Publicly Available Records System (PARS). Since the inception of ADAMS in 1999, the agency has made public more than 500,000 full-text documents and is currently publishing 200-300 documents daily. To ensure that user feedback on ADAMS is received and incorporated, the NRC works with an ADAMS User Group made up of members of the public who use ADAMS on a routine basis. The schedule of upcoming meetings and minutes of past meetings are posted on the ADAMS User Group Web page.

The NRC's goal is to release most documents within 6 business days. Exceptions apply to larger incoming documents, such as major license applications, which require more than 6 days to complete the security review. Some internally generated NRC documents, such as FOIA responses, fall into the exception category because they require more than 6 days to process and assemble for release.

b. Public Web Site

The NRC makes extensive use of its public Web site to share information with stakeholders and the public. The Web site contains information on Commission decisions, hearing transcripts, inspection reports, enforcement actions, petitions, event reports, daily plant status, a facility information finder, and detailed information on the performance of reactor licensees. It provides information and links to broaden the public's understanding of the NRC's mission, goals, and performance, as well as access to tools and information that help licensees and private entities conduct business with the agency.

Last year, the agency added the capability for Web site users to subscribe to desired content. On the e-subscriptions page, users can sign up to receive documents such as generic communications, new rulemaking dockets, news releases, speeches, and reports issued by the NRC's Inspector General. In addition, the agency is moving to Web-based distribution of agency correspondence related to operating reactors. Through this new distribution method, the public can subscribe to correspondence on a facility-by-facility basis through an interactive Web site, making it easier and faster to obtain the desired information. In a recent 30-day period, the agency distributed more than 17,000 pieces of correspondence to recipients in 16 different countries.

On February 4th 2010, the NRC launched its Open Government Web site at www.nrc.gov/open, including links to the NRC's high-value datasets, quick access to key information resources, information on the NRC's long-standing open government philosophy, pages on transparency, participation, and collaboration, and an on-line brainstorming tool through which the public can provide their ideas about how the NRC can improve transparency, participation, and collaboration. Figure 1 is a screen-shot of this page as of June 7, 2010.

To more fully describe the breadth of the NRC Web site, Appendix A provides the name, Web address, and brief description of some of the most frequently used categories of information published on the site, as well as of pages providing information about how the NRC performs its regulatory activities and how to conduct business with the NRC. Appendix B outlines how the NRC complies with the legal information dissemination requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, Section 3506(d).

c. Web-Based Access to Public Meeting and Hearings

In March 2000, the NRC began providing the public with access to high-interest Commission meetings over the Internet (Webcasting). Since then, the agency has expanded this initiative to make other high-interest meetings, conference sessions, and more recently, adjudicatory hearings, available for remote viewing via the Internet "live" (as they take place) or in "archived" format (digital recordings of previously held meetings), or both.

The public meeting video archive is accessible from the NRC's Electronic Reading Room. More traditional meeting records are also available, as is the schedule for upcoming Webcasts.

An archived copy of a Webstreamed hearing session is available to members of the public for 90 days via the link that was provided for viewing the Webstreamed hearing session live. Also, in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 2, "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders," the NRC maintains a transcript of the hearing in the agency's Web-accessible Electronic Hearing Docket as the official agency record of the proceeding.

Figure 1. Screen Shot of the NRC's Open Government Web Page

d. The NRC's Public Document Room

From its inception, the NRC has placed a high value on maintaining a well-staffed and effective Public Document Room (PDR) to enhance the public's ability to find and obtain the NRC's publicly available information. Most public information requests relate to the NRC's licensing and rulemaking activities, as well as to historical files from the NRC's predecessor agency, the Atomic Energy Commission.

The PDR staff, comprised of skilled technical and reference librarians, works directly with the agency's public users - stakeholders, environmental groups, licensees, the legal community, and concerned citizens - to provide information access and research assistance. This assistance is often essential in helping to identify, verify, and find information needed by outside groups or individuals. PDR staff provide direct assistance to public users in searching and navigating through the agency's extensive and complex electronic data, microfiche, and paper information collections.

In addition to its current services, the PDR staff is exploring web-based services such as "live chats" with PDR librarians and electronic "search/help forums." As technology continues to evolve, the PDR will continue to take advantage of new tools in support of its customer service mission.

e. Freedom of Information Act Requests

Through its policy to make most non-sensitive documents public via ADAMS, the NRC helps stakeholders and the public by reducing the need to submit requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). This reduction in FOIA requests also reduces the agency's costs for FOIA request processing.

Although the NRC's FOIA program has, historically, compared favorably with other agencies, on December 27, 2006, the NRC began implementing a FOIA improvement plan, as required by Executive Order 13392, "Improving Agency Disclosure of Information." Through this plan, the NRC assessed its FOIA program and identified improvements to expedite processing and reduce response times and the backlog of requests. The NRC also developed online training and employed information technology to help agency staff process requests more effectively. In addition, the agency enhanced and updated its FOIA and Privacy Act Requests Web page and related publications.

Since that time, the NRC has completed all actions identified in the FOIA improvement plan. As a result, the agency's backlogged cases have decreased from 13 in 2006 to 5 at the end of FY 2009. Response times have also been reduced, and the oldest request on hand at the end of FY 2009 was 89 days old compared to 115 at the end of FY 2008. In FY 2009, the agency met its internal goal of responding to 75-percent of simple FOIA requests within 20 days. The NRC posts links to frequently requested records, an index to closed requests, and its annual FOIA reports (the latter in open format) on the FOIA page of its public Web site.

Given the NRC's historical performance in this area, we do not anticipate further changes or reforms to our FOIA processes at this time. For more information about the NRC's FOIA Program and its capacity to analyze, coordinate, and respond to FOIA requests in a timely manner, see the Open Government Assessment of the NRC's FOIA Process as a Key Information Dissemination Channel, as well as our Annual Chief FOIA Officer Report.

3. Participation in Federal Transparency Initiatives

The NRC supports numerous governmentwide initiatives designed to promote Federal transparency and, where applicable, fully complies with their requirements. These initiatives are addressed below.

a. Data.gov—High-Value Datasets

The NRC is an active participant in Data.gov, a Federal Web site designed to increase public access to high-value, machine-readable datasets generated by the executive branch. The NRC published its first dataset in October 2009 and, in response to the Open Government Directive, published three additional datasets in January 2010. The NRC will continue to encourage public feedback on its high-value information and, consistent with agency policy and guidance provided by Data.gov, will continue to add new datasets to its high-value dataset publication plan.

Find more information…

- Appendix C to this plan ("High-Value Datasets")
- Data.gov—Select **Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)** from the agency list to locate NRC datasets.

b. Regulations.gov—Rulemaking Information

The NRC develops legally binding regulations (also known as rules) in a process known as rulemaking. The NRC announces all rulemaking actions in the *Federal Register*, the official daily publication for the Federal government. Along with other Federal agencies, the NRC also provides Web-based access to its regulations, draft and final rules, and other related documents through Regulations.gov, the Federal e-rulemaking portal. Through this site, the public can find, read, and comment on documents related to the NRC's rulemaking activities.

In response to a request from several nongovernmental organizations, in 2008 the NRC established a listserv as a way to notify subscribers of the latest NRC rulemaking dockets opened at Regulations.gov and of other preliminary rulemaking actions available for public review or comment, or both.

Also in 2008, the NRC migrated 10 years of historical rulemaking documents, along with all public comments submitted, from its agency-specific online rulemaking and commenting system to Regulations.gov, making all rulemaking-related *Federal Register* notices and associated public comments available on the governmentwide portal from that point on. On January 1, 2009, the NRC expanded its use of the Regulations.gov portal to include the posting of stakeholder comments on nonrulemaking *Federal Register* notices. The NRC also posts supplemental background information and supporting documents to dockets for high-interest agency actions.

Through Regulations.gov, the public can now access, by docket number, more than 9,000 public comments related to almost 700 rulemaking actions conducted by the NRC from 1999 to the present.

Find more information…

- The NRC's main Rulemaking page
- Regulations.gov—Select **Advanced Search** and select **NRC—NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION** from the list of agencies.
- E-Mail Notice Subscription Page—Select **Rulemaking Dockets** to receive the latest information on new NRC rulemaking actions.

c. USASpending.gov—Spending on Contracts, Small Purchases, and Grants

The NRC's Division of Contracts reports all contracts and financial assistance obligations to USASpending.gov on a monthly basis, in accordance with OMB Memorandum 09-19, "Guidance on Data Submission under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)," dated June 1, 2009. From its internal contracts system, the NRC generates a file of actions awarded each month and sends the information to the USASpending.gov Web site for publication.

Find more information…

- USASpending.gov—Select **Spending** from the top navigation, and then choose one of the following from the drop-down menu: **Contracts, Purchase Cards, or Grants**. Then choose **Agency** from the left navigation and select **NRC—NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION** from the drop-down menu.

d. IT.USASpending.gov—Spending on Information Technology

The Federal IT Dashboard provides agencies such as the NRC a public venue to share details of their IT investments. Through the Federal IT Dashboard, the public has the ability to track the progress of these investments over time. Within the NRC, to ensure that IT investments are managed within budget and scope, an executive-level IT Review Board provides review and oversight, and the agency holds its senior managers accountable for the performance of these investments in Senior Executive Service performance plans.

Find more information…

- IT.USASpending.gov—Select **Investments** from the top navigation and then select **Nuclear Regulatory Commission** from the drop-down menu.

e. Recovery.gov—Resources Provided to Agencies under the Recovery Act

The NRC has not received any funding under the Recovery Act and therefore does not participate in this initiative.

f. Grants.gov—Availability of Grants

The NRC posts information on all of its grants on Grants.gov, the public's source to find and apply for Federal grants. Most of the NRC awards are for accredited institutions of higher education for curriculum development, scholarships and fellowships, and faculty development, as well as targeted research and conference grants.

Find more information…

- Grants.gov—Under **Find Grant Opportunities**, select **Browse by Agency** and select **NRC—NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**.

g. Federal Research In Progress Database

The NRC provides information to the National Technical Information Services on research in progress through distribution of NUREGs, specifically NUREG 1925, "Research Activities." The NRC is exploring export of information on research contracts to support population of the Federal Research In Progress (FEDRIP) database. The FEDRIP database provides access to information about ongoing Federally funded projects in the fields of the physical sciences, engineering, and life sciences. The ongoing research announced in the FEDRIP database is an important component of the Nation's technology transfer process. The uniqueness of the FEDRIP database lies in its structure as a nonbibliographic information source on research in progress.

B. Action Plan for Improving Transparency

To set the tone for open government at the NRC, on March 24, 2010, the agency began publishing a list of Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko's meetings and other events that may be of interest to the public. This list includes meetings and events that the Chairman has participated in with various external stakeholders. The following sections address other important actions the NRC will take to improve transparency.

1. High-Value Datasets

The Open Government Directive defines high-value information as "information that can be used to increase agency accountability and responsiveness; improve public knowledge of the agency and its operations; further the core mission of the agency; create economic opportunity or respond to need and demand as identified through public consultation."[3]

As a regulatory agency whose processes and decisions are captured primarily in the form of documents, the NRC views its documents as its highest value data and has, up until now, focused the thrust of its public information dissemination program in this area. The agency has made its documents available via ADAMS and elsewhere on its public Web site in the widely used "portable document format" (PDF). As of July 1, 2008, the International Organization for Standardization officially recognized PDF as an open standard (per ISO 3200). The NRC has provided both a search engine for ADAMS and numerous indexes to popular document collections in the Electronic Reading Room on its public Web site. The agency recognizes that some of its stakeholders may be interested in accessing underlying data associated with ADAMS documents (e.g. descriptive metadata such as docket number, document date, author and subject). For this reason, the NRC will conduct a pilot project for publishing underlying data associated with a specific subset of ADAMS documents -- inspection reports. (See Appendix C, Table 3, item 2).

[3] Open Government Directive, page 7.

In response to OMB's request that agencies identify and publish their high-value datasets in open format, the NRC formed a working group to collaborate on developing an inventory of its high-value information based on several sources, including the most popular information at the agency's public Web site, data most frequently requested under FOIA, the agency's systems inventory, and its records schedules. The working group selected an initial group of high-value datasets based on the five OMB criteria to target information that can be used to: (1) increase accountability and responsiveness; (2) improve public knowledge of the agency and its operations; (3) further the core mission of the agency; (4) create economic opportunity; and (5) respond to need and demand.

Table 1 in Appendix C to this plan lists the high-value datasets that the NRC has published as of the release date of this plan. The table includes the criteria for high value that these datasets meet, the key audience(s) for each, and the date they were published in open format. Links to Web pages providing access to these datasets appear on the NRC's Open Government Web page as well as on the Data.gov Web site

Table 2 in Appendix C contains the high-value datasets the NRC plans to publish between the release date of this plan and September 30, 2011. The agency will publish each, along with a data dictionary, in open format on the NRC's public Web site, and they will also be available through Data.gov. Datasets in Table 3 of Appendix C represent first-time open-format publication of data that underlie previously published information.

Table 4 in Appendix C contains a composite list of the datasets in Tables 1, 2, and 3, indicating the key audiences with an interest/need for each dataset based on past input from these audiences and input from the NRC's Open Government Advisory Group. By October 31, 2010, the agency will institutionalize a process for maintaining and adding to its initial inventory of high-value data sets, taking into account the public's input on the types of data that would be of value. The agency would like to receive more public input on this subject so that efforts can be directed towards publishing the most useful datasets. Suggestions for such datasets may be submitted through the agency's public dialogue on ways to improve open government at the NRC.

Because of the nature of the NRC's mission and the potential use of some types of agency information for malevolent purposes, information security screening of all datasets will be of high importance. This will include applying administration guidance to screen for potential risks from combining NRC information with information published by other Federal agencies. In some cases, security concerns may limit the publication of agency information.

To foster the public's use of NRC high-value datasets to increase public knowledge and promote transparency, the NRC publicized the availability of its datasets at its annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC) on March 9–11, 2010, and will do so at other conferences and public meetings as appropriate as well as through the NRC's Open Government Web page. Additionally, stakeholders may receive notification whenever the agency adds a new dataset by subscribing to the updates section on the NRC's Open Government Web page (select "Subscribe to Updates" at the top right). This will result in an e-mail notification whenever the NRC adds a new dataset or makes other changes to its Open Government Web page.

2. Policy Changes

As stated above in Section III.A.1, in FY 2009, the agency met 3 out of 4 of its information dissemination timeliness measures. For FY 2010, in an effort to improve performance on the fourth measure, the agency has added the timely release of externally generated documents (those sent to the NRC by licensees and others) to the set of measures for which NRC senior managers are held accountable. In addition, the agency plans to review its treatment of certain categories of documents that are exempt from the 6-day release policy and consider adding separate timeliness criteria for some of them.

3. Expansion of Webstreaming

One of the ideas receiving the most support on the NRC's public Open Government Forum is the expansion of Webstreaming for public meetings. As of May 2010, the NRC will double the annual number of public meetings it will broadcast "live" using Webstreaming via internet, from 50 to 100. Of these, 50 will be public Commission meetings and 50 will be other meetings that are identified as having significant public interest. The expansion of Webstreaming will also increase the number of meeting rooms at NRC Headquarters equipped for Webstreaming from 1 to 4, enabling up to 4 meetings to be streamed simultaneously. By utilizing the NRC video teleconferencing system, the NRC can receive and stream information from any location that is similarly equipped. For example, this capability enabled the NRC to Webstream key sessions from the annual NRC Regulatory Information Conference. All Webstreamed meetings are also available for later viewing in the NRC's public meeting video archive at its public Web site. The NRC is evaluating further options for continued expansion of this service.

4. Public Communications

a. Podcasts

The NRC plans to pursue the use of audio files/podcasts posted on the Web, beginning with news releases. This new content would expand the NRC's ability to inform the public using alternative media and may attract additional interested audiences.

b. Use of Social Media

As identified in the description of the agency's Open Government Flagship Initiative in Section VI, the NRC is considering the future addition of social media technologies (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and blogging) to enhance the agency's ability to engage the public, maintain a productive dialogue, and solicit innovative ideas regarding both the agency's public Web site and its regulatory activities.

5. Improvements to ADAMS

Based on comments received from the public through the NRC's Open Government Forum and other feedback mechanisms, stakeholders have made it clear that improvements to ADAMS should be a priority for the NRC. One frequent request has been to provide the public with a Web browser-based interface to more easily search both of the ADAMS public libraries -- the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) and the Public Legacy Library (PLL). Until recently, a browser-based interface was available only for PARS. To search the PLL, users were required to download and install special software on their personally-owned computers.

On February 1 2010, the NRC released a new search tool that provides browser-based access to both PARS and the PLL, eliminates the need to download special software, and offers the same reporting capabilities that had been praised in the old software access system.

In addition, the NRC is working to modernize the entire ADAMS system. This effort will incorporate other suggestions from the public, including a Google search capability. See Appendix D for the schedule.

6. Improvements to the NRC Public Web Site

a. Expanded Use of Event- and Facility-Specific Web Pages

In response to increased public interest in a specific NRC-licensed facility, either as a result of an event response or an upcoming licensing action, the agency has sometimes established event-specific or facility-specific Web sites, where all of the background information, documents, contacts, and other sources of data about the event or facility are consolidated and more easily accessible by the public. For example, the NRC established a Web page for the Nuclear Fuel Services facility in Erwin, TN, a facility that recently was the subject of increased public interest. The NRC is planning a more comprehensive approach that would include Web pages for all major nuclear facilities and events with high public interest.

b. Public Web Site Redesign

Recognizing the important role of the Web in achieving openness and outreach to the public, the NRC is now integrating innovative technologies into the redesign of its public Web site. More information about this redesign, which the NRC has selected as one component of its Flagship Open Government Initiative, is addressed in Section VI.

IV. Participation

The NRC is responsible for developing, implementing, and enforcing policies that are well-informed and effective. To do so, the agency recognizes that the public must be informed about, and have a reasonable opportunity to participate meaningfully in, its regulatory processes and (where appropriate) decisionmaking.

> ***"Participation allows members of the public to contribute ideas and expertise so that their government can make policies with the benefit of information that is widely dispersed in society."*** *(Open Government Directive).*

The NRC has received license applications for the construction and operation of a number of new nuclear power plants and uranium recovery facilities. The NRC also anticipates an additional number of spent fuel storage installation applications and applications to extend the licenses of operating reactors. These activities are already generating interest from the public that is expected to continue. The NRC will continue its practice of providing stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the regulatory process before issuance of a license (initial or renewed), construction permit, early-site permit, design certification, combined license or rulemaking, as appropriate. In all aspects of its work, the agency is committed to making public participation as expansive and meaningful as possible.

Section IV of this plan describes the numerous tools the NRC uses to foster citizen participation and engagement, including public meetings, public hearings, the agency's public Web site, and document comment processes. It also addresses plans that the agency is making in response to industry trends and the Open Government Directive to review its current communication practices with the objective of using Web-based technologies to expand opportunities for public participation.

A. What We're Doing Now

1. Public Meetings and Outreach

To communicate clearly and frequently with diverse groups of stakeholders and the public, the NRC holds meetings both in the vicinity of existing and proposed nuclear facilities and at NRC Headquarters and regional offices. These meetings help inform local residents and other stakeholders about NRC activities and regulatory responsibilities, as well as provide opportunities for questions and feedback. The agency announces these meetings through a variety of channels, including the NRC's public Web site, news releases, and announcements in local community newspapers. The agency also collects feedback from attendees at every public meeting to better understand and respond to the needs of both observers and participants.

The NRC's public meeting schedule, meeting archives, and answers to frequently asked questions about public meetings are accessible on the NRC's Public Meeting Web page. An important element of the NRC's public meeting policy is to post public notice of staff meetings open to the public on its Web site at least 10 calendar days in advance of the meeting date. In FY 2009, the agency was successful in meeting this public meeting notice timeliness target 94 percent of the time, surpassing its goal of 90 percent. For further information about NRC's public meeting policies, see Management Directive 3.5, Attendance at NRC Staff Sponsored Meetings. This directive discusses the agency's policy for holding both public (open) and non-public (closed meetings) with NRC staff.

In addition to public meetings, the NRC has expanded its outreach efforts to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) interested in the agency's work. In early March 2010, NRC staff met with Mothers for Peace of San Luis Obispo and also recently met with other NGOs including International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the National Mining Association. These meetings are designed to improve communication regarding the agency's regulatory role and current activities. Reaching out to interested groups for individual meetings helps representatives from NGOs personalize their participation with the agency. In addition, the NRC responds to requests for information from NGOs on a variety of issues of interest.

2. Hearings

NRC hearings afford individuals or entities with an interest in an NRC licensing or enforcement action the opportunity to participate in the regulatory process by raising issues before a three-member Licensing Board composed of administrative judges from the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel (ASLBP), an independent component of the NRC. A Licensing Board conducts the hearing and makes decisions based on the information presented by the hearing participants.

Over the past several years, the NRC has made many improvements to technology supporting the hearing process to make participation more efficient and effective for both the Licensing Boards and the hearing participants. Key examples are the Digital Data Management System, the Electronic Hearing Docket, and the agency's electronic filing system.

The Digital Data Management System (DDMS), which combines audio/video and computer technology to manage the exhibits and other adjudicatory materials, can be used by hearing participants and ASLBP personnel to locate and view electronic text and images of exhibits and other adjudicatory record materials and to perform legal research on the Internet. DDMS audio/video capabilities include a voice-activated digital video recording system with cameras and monitors and a tele/videoconferencing system to allow parties and witnesses to participate from multiple remote locations. A video record of the hearing is available to the parties and ASLBP personnel via the Internet shortly after the day's session. Also, as part of the access process for each Webstreamed adjudicatory event, the NRC provides stakeholders with an opportunity to provide comments on their experience using this technology and makes an archived copy of the video available to the public for 90 days.

In addition, the Electronic Hearing Docket provides Web access to searchable electronic copies of all public filings in hearing proceedings and the agency's E-Filing system allows those wishing to participate in agency hearings to submit and serve electronic copies of filings via the Web, as required by NRC regulations, 24 hours a day. More information about public involvement in NRC in hearings is available on the NRC's public Web site.

3. Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops

Among the many conferences, symposia, and workshops that the NRC staff hosts or participates in each year, the annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC) is the most prominent. The RIC brings together more than 2,500 people, representatives from more than 25 countries, members of Congress, nuclear plant owners, nuclear materials users, and other important stakeholders and informs them of significant regulatory activities, including research findings, rulemaking, regulatory and safety issues, generic issues, regulatory process and procedure improvements, and other items of particular interest such as license renewal. The annual conference serves as a communication vehicle to allow informal open dialogue among the attendees. RIC attendees gain knowledge of planned and current NRC activities that may have an impact on them. They also discuss issues both in the panel sessions and during the public comment periods that are an integral part of each session so that the NRC staff can evaluate stakeholder input, incorporate suggestions, and address concerns that are raised.

The most recent RIC conference (March, 2010) included Webstreaming of key events, including the opening, Chairman and Commissioner plenaries, and the general plenary session. Additionally, each year, all RIC presentations are available through the NRC public Web site, and Commissioner plenary sessions and responses to questions that were unanswered at the conference are posted on the Web site and archived.

The NRC makes use of other conferences, symposia, and workshops on more specific regulatory topics to engage its stakeholders and the public in the regulatory process. Examples include the following:

- In September 2008, the NRC sponsored a public workshop on cesium that discussed using alternative forms of cesium, alternative technologies, phaseout and transportation issues, additional security, and potential future requirements for use of the material. More than 200 people attended the forum.

- In September 2009, the NRC held a series of public workshops to solicit early input on major issues associated with the potential rulemaking for land disposal of depleted uranium. The participants included industry representatives, academics, State regulators, public interest groups, other Federal agencies, and the general public. The NRC created a dedicated public Web page to facilitate ongoing communication with the public on the rulemaking.

- The NRC annually hosts and sponsors the Fuel Cycle Information Exchange Conference, where NRC staff, industry representatives, and other stakeholders discuss regulatory issues related to the nuclear fuel cycle.

4. NRC Web Sites Promoting Public Participation

To enhance participation in the regulatory process, the NRC's public Web site has included a Public Meetings and Involvement page since 2002. This page contains links to numerous other pages where the public can learn about public meetings, comment on proposed rules and draft documents, understand how to petition the agency to take an enforcement action, participate in hearings, or ask the NRC to consider changing or establishing a regulation. Table 3 in Appendix A to this plan contains a list and description of these key Web sites promoting public participation.

B. Action Plan for Improving Participation

The NRC is continually exploring the use of new media and tools for enhancing public participation. Several examples and plans for the future are outlined below.

1. Public Meetings

The NRC conducts public meetings in many locations across the country to engage a variety of stakeholders in the regulatory process. The agency is now taking steps to improve participation at these meetings, including broadening participation through the use of Web conferencing, implementing a new meeting facilitation program, and using Web technology to interact with participants before, during, and after the meetings.

a. Web Conferencing

In FY 2009, the NRC successfully piloted the use of Web conferencing at several meetings so that remote stakeholders could participate. A recently released 2-minute video, available at the White House Open Government Innovations Web site, explains how the NRC used this technology to more broadly share information about possible changes to emergency preparedness regulations.

As part of the agency's outreach efforts to communicate these potential regulatory changes, the NRC held public meetings in venues throughout the country. For each meeting, anyone with a computer could log on to an Internet-based conference center and participate from any location by listening to content, seeing speakers and presentations, asking questions, and providing comments. This approach allowed the NRC to minimize the cost to stakeholders while also increasing opportunities for public participation in the regulatory process.

The NRC recently established a cross-agency working group to drive the effective expansion of agency capabilities for both Web conferencing and Webstreaming (See Section III.B.3 for more about the expansion of Webstreaming) to support diverse business needs for conducting meetings and fostering communication within and outside the agency. This effort will help expand IT services that support agency efforts to increase participation in public meetings as well as increase efficiency and effectiveness. Lessons learned and feedback from pilot activities will be used to implement the appropriate services for agency use. By implementing common solutions across the agency, the NRC will achieve economies of scale and will be better able to provide training and other support services to help the staff use the technology effectively.

As the Web conferencing pilot program expands, the NRC will use a continuous feedback process to help drive improvements that increase efficiency and effectiveness and ensure a positive user experience.

b. Meeting Facilitation Program

Through the NRC's new In-House Meeting Facilitator & Advisor Program, several employees are being trained as facilitation specialists. These specialists will aid other NRC staff in fulfilling the agency's commitment to openness by ensuring that NRC public meetings and outreach activities are effective, inclusive, and fair, and they will further bolster the agency's capacity to collaborate and address issues with external stakeholders. Facilitators will be trained to use technology tools such as Web conferencing to help meet these objectives.

c. Meeting Feedback

The NRC is working to improve all aspects of the public meeting and outreach process, beginning with improved collaboration with stakeholders before a meeting so that the NRC staff is better prepared to address stakeholder questions and concerns. In addition, the NRC is working to ensure that NRC information presented at these meetings can be more easily understood by the public.

Although the agency has had much success receiving feedback from the public after public meetings via hard copy forms, a team of NRC communicators and technology specialists is exploring various options for updating this process. One option that the agency is considering is to enable the public to post comments through the public Web site, thereby allowing members of the public to submit information from anywhere they have Internet access.

2. New Communications Tools for the ADAMS User Group

The agency has a standing public user group to guide enhancements to its publicly available electronic documents system. Communication with this group is currently handled through an e-mail distribution list, regular semi-annual meetings, and direct communication with the PDR staff. The NRC plans to explore other approaches such as Webinars to enhance and broaden interaction with ADAMS users.

V. Collaboration

> ***"Collaboration improves the effectiveness of Government by encouraging partnerships and cooperation within the Federal Government, across levels of government, and between the Government and private institutions."*** *(Open Government Directive)*

In the coming years, the NRC will confront a variety of challenges, including ensuring the safety and security of existing and proposed nuclear power plants and other licensed facilities and materials, emergency preparedness, and the storage and disposal of high-level radioactive waste. The NRC recognizes that meeting these challenges will call for the highest levels of collaboration among its own employees and cooperation and partnership with other Federal and non-Federal governmental agencies and with nonprofit and other private entities.

Nevertheless, as a regulatory agency, the NRC is mindful of the need to preserve its independence, and it must therefore enter into collaborative activities only where appropriate.

As the NRC began categorizing its open government activities, some fell into a gray area that might be considered either participation or collaboration. Based on the definition of collaboration provided in the Open Government Directive (see text box above), an activity was included in this section only if it demonstrated a true partnership among the participants. Those participation activities that solicit ideas or feedback without a full partnership were covered in Section IV.

This section addresses what the NRC is currently doing to promote collaboration internally and externally and the planned actions designed to enhance collaborative relationships critical to ensuring that the agency achieves its core mission goals. Existing and emerging technologies that provide the means to broaden and strengthen collaborative activities will play a key role in supporting these efforts.

A. What We're Doing Now

The NRC's key collaborative partners include State, Federal, and non-Federal governmental agencies, nonprofit and private entities, and the international nuclear regulatory community. In addition to the summaries below, Table 4 in Appendix A provides a comprehensive list of links to Web sites with detailed information about the NRC's collaborative partnerships and activities.

1. Federal Regulatory Partnerships

a. Transportation of Nuclear Materials and Radioactive Waste

About 3 million packages of radioactive materials are shipped each year in the United States, either by highway, rail, air, or water. Regulating the safety of these shipments is the joint responsibility of the NRC and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The NRC establishes requirements for the design and manufacture of Type B and fissile material packages for radioactive materials, and DOT regulates Type A and lesser quantity packages, as well as shipments while they are in transit, and sets standards for labeling and placarding. To ensure regulatory consistency, the NRC and DOT coordinate transportation-related rulemaking efforts and associated regulatory processes.

b. Emergency Preparedness and Response

The NRC is the coordinating agency for radiological accidents and incidents occurring at NRC-licensed facilities and for radioactive materials licensed either by the NRC or under the agency's Agreement State Program. As coordinating agency, the NRC exercises technical leadership for the Federal Government's response to the event. If the severity of an event rises to the level of a general emergency or if it is a terrorist-related event, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) takes on the role of coordinating the overall Federal response, with the NRC retaining its technical leadership role.

In the event of an emergency, the NRC is prepared to share information and coordinate action with DHS and the full spectrum of Federal agencies that might respond to an event at an NRC-licensed facility or involving NRC-licensed material—the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Department of State. The NRC's Operations Center, the command center for radiological event response, is outfitted with state-of-the-art communications and computing capabilities designed to support swift and effective cross-agency, intergovernmental, and public and private coordination of action.

The NRC participates in numerous working groups, including the Federal Senior Leadership Council, a decisionmaking body of Federal principals that meets to discuss national-level critical infrastructure policies; the Nuclear Security Working Group, a group composed of NRC managers, representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute, and licensee security managers who discuss current security issues; and the Federal Radiological Preparedness Coordinating Committee, comprising representatives from Federal departments and agencies, which coordinates various aspects of radiological emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

To ensure a timely and effective local response, the NRC and FEMA collaborate on emergency planning guidance for State and local governments and run joint emergency preparedness exercises at licensee facilities every 2 years. In addition, the NRC and FEMA maintain regular communications on emerging incident response issues and cooperate to ensure that the Federal Government maintains a robust and agile radiological emergency response capability.

c. Radiation Source Protection

The Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force, established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58), is one of the primary vehicles for advancing issues related to security of radiation sources from potential terrorist threats. The Task Force, under the lead of the NRC, is mandated to evaluate and provide recommendations to the President and Congress relating to the security of radiation sources in the U.S. from potential terrorist threats, including acts of sabotage, theft, or use of a radiation source in a radiological dispersal device. The Act named 12 Federal agencies to the Task Force and the NRC also invited the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to participate on the Task Force. A representative from the Organization of Agreement States/Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (OAS/CRCPD) was also asked to participate as a non-voting member.

The Task Force is to submit to the President and Congress reports providing recommendations, including possible regulatory and legislative changes on several specific topics related to the protection and security of radiation sources. The Task Force provided its first report to the President and Congress in August 2006. The Task Force is developing its second report to be submitted in August 2010.

d. Homeland Security

The NRC works closely with other Federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, DOE, and various State and local law enforcement agencies to coordinate and enhance integrated response activities. The NRC is actively working to identify and develop key IT investments that will further enhance the storage, handling, and communication of sensitive security information and the communication of this information to NRC licensees and Federal, State, and local partners.

e. Protecting the Environment

The NRC establishes and maintains effective communications about environmental policy with EPA, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the NRC to communicate its environmental impact analyses and comments on matters related to NEPA procedures and implementation to the Council on Environmental Quality and to coordinate with those agencies on matters such as environmental justice.

The NRC collaborates closely with EPA and DOI to protect public and private land affected by activities such as uranium recovery and radioactive waste disposal. In November 2009, the NRC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with DOI's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), that defines the cooperative working relationship to be used to support common goals that guide the preparation of each agency's NEPA reviews related to the extraction of uranium and thorium on BLM-administered public lands. This MOU will improve interagency communications, facilitate the sharing of special expertise and information, and help coordinate the preparation of studies, reports, and NEPA documents.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, mandates the NRC to maintain communication with officials at the National Park Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and to contribute to the Secretary of the Interior's Annual Report to Congress on Federal Archeological Activities.

Find more information…

- Transportation of nuclear materials
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Emergency preparedness and response—Federal, State, and local responsibilities
- Emergency preparedness in response to terrorism
- MOU Between NRC and BLM

2. States and Native American Tribal Governments

The NRC recognizes that fulfilling its core mission requires broad cooperation with local, State, and Tribal governments that have a stake in the safe, secure, and environmentally friendly use of radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes. The NRC and its non-Federal partners maintain a comprehensive, consistent regulatory infrastructure that best serves the public interest.

a. Agreement States

Under Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the NRC may relinquish to State regulators portions of its authority to license and regulate byproduct materials (radioisotopes), source materials (uranium and thorium), and certain quantities of special nuclear materials. Regulatory authority in these areas is transferred to an "Agreement State" via an agreement signed by the Governor of the State and the Chairman of the NRC. The NRC regulates about 15-percent of the more than 20,000 active source, byproduct, and special nuclear materials licenses currently in place; the 37 Agreement States regulate the rest.

To ensure regulatory consistency and support Federal/State collaboration, the NRC conducts training courses and workshops for Agreement State regulators, evaluates technical licensing and inspection issues identified by Agreement States, evaluates State rule changes, participates in activities conducted by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, and ensures early and substantive State involvement in NRC rulemaking and other regulatory efforts.

NRC management periodically meets with Agreement State leaders from the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors and the Organization of Agreement States to prioritize regulatory issues, exchange information, or undertake tasks of common interest. The NRC and Agreement States regularly form working groups to address specific issues and promulgate best practices in the regulation, use, and safeguarding of radioactive materials. A significant cooperative effort that began in 2009 is the revision of all radioactive materials licensing documents to incorporate security enhancements made through legally binding requirements such as orders and regulations.

Other examples of NRC/Agreement State cooperation include the following:

- The Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review process is used to evaluate the technical adequacy and consistency of Agreement State and NRC programs. A technical team composed of NRC and Agreement State personnel performs these collaborative, performance-based reviews. The IMPEP won the Harvard University Award for Excellence in Government and serves as a model of cooperation between the Federal and State governments.

- The NRC's Nuclear Materials Events Database (NMED) contains records of events involving nuclear material reported by NRC licensees, Agreement States, and nonlicensees. Idaho National Laboratory, a research arm of DOE, maintains the database. NMED data are accessible to NRC staff, Agreement State regulators, and other users authorized by the NRC. The general public has access to the aggregated event information via a link to NMED on the NRC's public Web site.

- The National Source Tracking System (NSTS) is a secure, Web-based database that tracks the movement, storage, and transfer of radioactive sources regulated by the NRC and the Agreement States. The NSTS was developed through close cooperation with other Federal and State agencies and allows the tracking of nuclear materials throughout the life cycle of the source—from manufacture through shipment, receipt, decay, and burial. The NSTS enhances the ability of the NRC and Agreement States to conduct inspections and investigations, communicate information to other government agencies, and verify legitimate ownership and use of nationally tracked sources. Implementation of the NSTS, along with complementary efforts by the NRC to develop Web-based licensing and a license verification system, is improving the control and management of radioactive sources by the NRC and its regulatory partners.

Find more information…

- Agreement State directory
- Audit of the NRC's Agreement State Program
- NRC/Agreement State working groups
- IMPEP toolbox
- NMED
- NSTS

b. State and Tribal Governments

Through the Federal, State, and Tribal Liaison Programs, the NRC works in cooperation with Federal, State, and local governments, interstate organizations, and Native American Tribal Governments to ensure that the NRC maintains effective relations and communications with these organizations and promotes greater awareness and mutual understanding of the policies, activities, and concerns of all parties involved as they relate to radiological safety at NRC-licensed facilities.

The NRC consults regularly with Governor-appointed State Liaison Officers and maintains contact with representatives of State public utility commissions, the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners to identify NRC regulatory initiatives that affect States and to keep the NRC apprised of those organizations' activities.

Tribal Government interest in nuclear-related activities provides for case-by-case exchanges of information on specific issues related to the NRC's policy and regulatory authority, primarily in the areas of uranium recovery, high- and low-level radioactive waste storage, transportation, disposal, and reclamation. The NRC maintains a cooperative relationship with the National Congress of American Indians.

This open exchange of information supports the NRC's efforts to enforce proper control and disposal of radioactive materials, protect the environment, promote emergency preparedness, and ensure a rapid and effective response to radiological emergencies.

Find more information…

- State and Tribal Liaison Programs

3. International Activities

The NRC performs certain legislatively mandated international duties, including licensing the export and import of nuclear materials and equipment, and participating in activities supporting U.S. Government compliance with legally-binding international treaties and conventions. All license applications received and licenses issued by the NRC for exports and imports of nuclear materials and equipment are made available to the public. The NRC's regulations (10 CFR §110.81) expressly encourage written comments from the public regarding export and import license applications.

With the understanding that nuclear power is now a global enterprise and that all nations have an abiding interest in seeing that the use of nuclear power and radioactive sources is accomplished with a focus on safety and security, the NRC also collaborates with the world community in developing programs that leverage the knowledge and experience accumulated by states with mature nuclear programs and provide cooperation and assistance to other countries.

The NRC actively participates in international working groups and provides advice and assistance to international organizations and foreign countries to develop effective regulatory organizations, develop safety and security consensus guidance, and control the export and import of nuclear and radioactive materials and equipment. The NRC engages in cooperative activities bilaterally with other countries and by participating in programs managed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and through other international bodies such as the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

The following are examples of the NRC's international cooperative efforts:

- The NRC has technical information exchange and cooperation agreements with 38 countries and Taiwan. The NRC also collaborates directly with counterpart agencies in other countries under individual regulatory and research cooperation agreements. Cooperation with countries with mature nuclear programs ensures the timely exchange of applicable nuclear safety and security information and operating experience. The NRC's international assistance activities help to develop and improve national regulatory programs (for both nuclear reactor and radioactive material safety and security) through training, workshops, peer review of regulatory documents, working group meetings, technical information and specialist exchanges.

- The NRC's foreign assignee program provides on-the-job experience for qualified candidates nominated by their governments to work at the NRC. During FY 2009, the NRC hosted eight assignees from France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, Lithuania, the Republic of Korea, and Vietnam.

- The NRC staff recently participated in the first meeting of the 28-nation Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa. The members of the forum requested cooperation and support from the NRC in the areas of regulatory oversight of uranium mining and milling and for new nuclear power plants. They also expressed interest in the NRC's ongoing or planned radioactive source-related assistance efforts, especially assistance to develop national registries of radioactive sources.

- The NRC has a leadership role in IAEA's wide range of technical and consultants meetings, standards committees, safeguards initiatives, workshops and other IAEA-led assessment and assistance missions. One such example is that the agency is a key member of IAEA's International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale effort for the prompt communication of events of safety significance at nuclear and radiological facilities to the international public.

- In October 2010, the NRC will host in an Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission. This mission is part of an IAEA-led initiative for Member States to review each other's regulatory standards and assess the regulatory infrastructure against international safety standards and good practices. The outcome of this effort will be an objective review of the NRC's regulatory practices for operating reactors and an assessment of whether NRC standards meet international standards. The final report will provide the NRC with recommendations and suggestions for improvements, while also providing reviewers from Member States and the IAEA staff with opportunities for mutual learning. It will also provide real opportunities for IAEA staff to obtain direct feedback on the application of international standards.

- The NRC has a leadership role in the work of the NEA, which works primarily with states with mature nuclear programs. One example of recent activity is the Multinational Design Evaluation Program (MDEP) with nine other participating countries. The MDEP is an international collaborative effort that seeks to leverage the experience and knowledge of regulators around the world in the licensing of new reactor designs while serving as a catalyst to enable the convergence of applicable codes, standards, and regulations. The MDEP has made significant progress toward these goals, including an unprecedented level of international cooperation on vendor and construction inspections, digital instrumentation and control, and codes and standards.

Find more information…

- The NRC's international activities

4. Nonprofit and Private Entities

a. Development of Consensus Standards

The NRC works with independent standards organizations to develop consensus standards (technical requirements and best practices) associated with systems, equipment, or materials used by the nuclear industry. For example, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers develops standards associated with electrical equipment, the American Concrete Institute develops standards associated with concrete products, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers develops standardized codes for mechanical engineering. These standards development organizations coordinate public and private efforts to develop technical standards acceptable to Government, industry, research institutions, and members of the public. By participating in the development of consensus standards, the NRC promotes realism, effectiveness, and efficiency in the regulatory process.

b. Cooperative Research Efforts

In addition to leading the agency's initiative for cooperative research with Federal agencies such as DOE and the NRC's international partners, the NRC leads collaborative research efforts with the domestic nuclear industry and U.S. universities. NRC staff members participate in domestic and international committees and conferences that support information sharing and the establishment of global cooperation in the regulation and control of nuclear facilities, nuclear materials, and radioactive waste.

c. Cooperative Security Activities

The NRC understands that safeguarding nuclear facilities and materials requires cooperation between Federal regulators and licensees in private industry. The NRC works continuously to ensure that the agency and its licensees maintain a current awareness of potential threats to licensed facilities and activities. NRC managers and staff cooperate with industry on security matters, making available information on these interactions when appropriate.

d. Collaboration with Industry on Technical Guidance

Besides providing guidance to nuclear power plant operators on acceptable methods for implementing agency regulations, the NRC also reviews and endorses additional implementation methods outlined in industry-generated documents that are consistent with NRC guidance.

Find more information…

- NRC participation in standards development

B. Action Plan for Improving Collaboration

The NRC is examining its key existing internal and external collaborative activities to assess how it can enhance them to better support the goals of open government, particularly through the use of new and emerging technologies.

1. Using Technology Platforms to Improve Collaboration

In July 2009, the NRC hosted an internal IT summit to establish priorities for future IT investments. "Working with Anyone" was one of the themes that was chosen as a top priority. This theme focused on technologies that would better enable groups of NRC staff to collaborate effectively, both within the agency and with stakeholders and representatives of other Federal agencies, academia, industry, and the general public. The results of the summit fueled agency efforts to accelerate the use of, and support for, collaborative tools and services.

Examples of collaboration technologies currently in use inside the agency are tools for virtual meetings, team and collaboration sites, communities of practice based on subject matter, wiki Web sites, and teleconferencing. The NRC has hundreds of internal collaboration sites and communities of practice that enable collaborative activities and knowledge sharing. For example, soon after OMB issued the Open Government Directive, the NRC launched a team collaboration site that was used to help develop this Open Government Plan and share ideas on open government across the agency. These experiences help to reinforce the NRC's culture of openness and increase the staff's receptiveness to using collaborative technologies in their day-to-day work.

a. Virtual Meeting Services

Beginning in 2008, the NRC introduced the use of virtual meeting (GoToMeeting) technology within the agency. In keeping with the Open Government goal of fostering collaboration and engaging the public, the NRC is expanding the use of virtual meeting services to a much wider audience in an effort to make public work sessions more accessible, interactive and participatory. On May 12, 2010 and May 17, 2010, the agency held facilitated sessions to obtain input from its domestic and international stakeholders on the next version of the NRC Strategic Plan. Participants were given the option of attending the meeting electronically via GoToMeeting and many of them chose to do so, enabling wider participation than would otherwise have been possible. The participating stakeholders included other regulatory agencies, licensees, industry groups, public interest groups, Congress, Agreement States, and international agencies such as the European-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). The NRC will continue to expand the use of virtual meetings to larger internal and external audiences.

b. Social Media Technologies

The NRC recognizes the increasing popularity of social media tools and services. These tools employ Web 2.0 technologies to redefine how people access information over the internet. The NRC also recognizes the effectiveness of these tools and services in:

- Disseminating information to people electronically where information comes to people rather than the traditional approach of people looking for information.
- Establishing connection with diverse stakeholders over the internet.
- Promoting collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

According to one study conducted by the Pew Research Center, 54% of the United States population used the internet on any typical day in 2009. The study also stated that 74% of internet users are adults over 18 years old. Up to 47% of the internet users engaged in social media activities and up to 59% of the internet users visited local, state or federal government websites. The NRC may leverage social media tools and services that align with the agency's business needs to improve public and NRC stakeholder collaboration and participation in the agency's regulatory activities by:

- Establishing website pages representing the NRC with social networking services.
- Establishing new mass communication channels such as blogging and micro-blogging services.
- Increasing the use of multimedia to deliver information to wider audiences.
- Increasing the use of the NRC public website by sharing valuable site links or bookmarks with other users.

As part of NRC's flagship initiative, the agency is using a methodical approach to implementing social media capabilities that ensure the agency's legal obligations and security requirements are met. The approach will first assess the proper use of social media to add value to the NRC and Open Government mission. The NRC will also assess and implement policies and guidance on the use of social media tools and services to ensure the agency's security posture and legal commitments are not compromised.

c. Citizen Engagement Tool

In collaboration with the General Services Administration, the NRC participated in a pilot of the IdeaScale citizen engagement tool from February 5th through March 19th in connection with the release of its Open Government Web site. This easy-to-use online tool enabled the public to submit ideas for the NRC's Open Government Plan and to comment and vote on the ideas of others. The NRC is evaluating the results of this pilot to determine how effective it was and to determine if this or similar tools might have broader applicability for public engagement on other topics. On April 1, 2010, the agency reactivated the pilot of IdeaScale in its current form until the evaluation is completed, at the end of June, 2010. The only change was the addition of a new category for comments on the published Open Government Plan.

d. Collaborative Web Portals

The NRC is also exploring ideas for using technology to enhance collaboration with its external partners. The NRC has long used a password-protected Web portal to share rulemaking and policy information with Agreement State regulators. In support of its commitment to continuous improvement, the NRC is exploring the feasibility of using a similar mechanism to share certain enforcement information with Agreement States. If the associated legal and privacy issues can be resolved, this information may be placed in a password-protected area on the NRC Web site so that only NRC and Agreement State personnel with a need to know have access.

e. Virtual Records Archive

Because of the nature of the NRC's regulatory responsibilities for nuclear power plants, the agency must maintain legal control of some its permanent records for more than 100 years prior to turning them over to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for permanent preservation. This period of time is longer than for most other agencies. To ensure that the information is secure and accessible throughout this time period, the agency continually works to preserve its records by converting them to new formats and platforms as technology changes.

Since the NRC already provides public access to its records through ADAMS, its central public document system (see Section III. 2), it is exploring the option of gaining permission from NARA to establish an affiliated archive. To accomplish this, the NRC and NARA would enter into an agreement whereby the NRC would assume the responsibility for preserving and maintaining access to its records. This could also include NRC linking its system to NARA's electronic records archive which would provide another point of access for the public.

2. Innovative Methods To Increase External Collaboration

The NRC continues to use a variety of tools in unique ways to support collaboration, particularly within the nuclear sciences and certain disadvantaged communities. For example, the NRC's Minority Serving Institutions Program provides historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving Institutions and tribal colleges and universities with financial assistance, career exposure and on-the-job training opportunities for their students, research partnerships and mentoring. Additionally, the NRC's Nuclear Education Grant Program provides upwards of $5 million a year to institutions of higher education to support courses, studies, training, curricula, and disciplines pertaining to nuclear safety, security, or environmental protection. Further, three different nuclear education programs provide support to students and faculty at colleges and universities, and to trade school and community college students. All of these programs directly or indirectly bring NRC professional staff and young scientists and students together and fuel innovative collaboration that benefits the NRC, the academic institutions and the grantees and students.

In a smaller though no less meaningful way, the NRC's headquarters supports local science students at the junior high and high school level by sponsoring a science award for participants in the Montgomery County (Md.) annual science fair. NRC employees judge the science projects that in some way relate to the mission of the NRC and select winners who are then honored by NRC Chairman and Commissioners at a special award ceremony at headquarters. The science fair science competition brings student scientists into contact with NRC staff and members of the Commission in such as way as to increase awareness of energy and regulatory issues, promote scientific solutions to various problems related to the nuclear industry and promote collaboration with federal

VI. Flagship Initiative— Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement

The NRC has selected Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement as its flagship initiative to expand the agency's stakeholder community and engage a broader public audience. The use of the World Wide Web and mobile technologies has become common place, providing more creative and cost effective ways to engage current and new stakeholders in the agency's regulatory processes. The NRC's flagship initiative will focus employing these technologies to foster public engagement and implement incremental improvements as part of a continuous improvement cycle. Phases of this initiative that were not previously planned will be pursued using the NRC's planning, budgeting, and performance management processes.

A. Overview of the Initiative

A key element of this flagship initiative is to enhance NRC's engagement and communication channels with the public and agency stakeholders by employing Web 2.0 technologies. These technologies include but are not limited to social networking, citizen engagement, media streaming, and virtual meeting tools. The same technologies will also be used to increase visibility of the NRC's public website, which is in the process of being redesigned to better address the informational needs of site visitors, improve their site experience, and foster greater public engagement. The new NRC website will enable more efficient information dissemination that can be tailored to the needs of site visitors and provide the conduit for enhancing public participation and, where appropriate, collaboration in NRC regulatory activities. The NRC's Open Government web page will be used to introduce new technologies to assess their usability and value to the agency and stakeholders. The following table shows the engagement tools and improvements that may be included in this initiative, their benefits, and the open government principles they support.

OG Principle			Enhanced Engagement Improvements and Tools	Key Benefits
Transparency	*Participation*	*Collaboration*		
✓	✓	✓	Social networking technologies can enhance relationships between NRC and stakeholders, by promoting a sense of common community. A cross-agency working group has been established and is using a structured process to identify business needs and opportunities that will benefit from using social networking and collaboration technologies to foster engagement through interactive on-line dialogues and information exchanges. These media would be used to meet specific transparency, participation, and collaboration objectives such as collaborating on special topics of interest to foster information exchange. The working group will consider best practices and lessons learned from other agencies and private industry to determine and implement changes to policy, guidance, processes and training necessary to effectively use these technologies to achieve business objectives. This approach is designed to establish a foundation for success in using these new media solutions to achieve measurable business value.	➢ Strengthen sense of community and engagement between NRC, stakeholders, and the public ➢ Foster broader public engagement using new media channels to establish relationships with a wider public audience ➢ Facilitate constructive on-line discussions and collaborations on topics of interest. ➢ Disseminate ideas through broad community exchange. ➢ Potential benefits in training and recruiting.
		✓	Foster greater collaboration within industry and government workgroups by using web conferencing technologies that enable work to occur regardless of the participant's physical location. Explore incorporating use of other collaborative tools such as wikis that increase workgroup efficiency and improve results by enabling easy access to reference materials, on-line brainstorming, and development of collaborative work products. Consider use of targeted community portals when registered and secured access is required to participate in discussions and exchanges of non-public information.	➢ Facilitate fast-forming workgroups ➢ Encourage more active participation from a broader audience ➢ Lower cost of participation ➢ Improve quality of collaborative work products (e.g. documents) by providing better tools for effective interaction

OG Principle			Enhanced Engagement Improvements and Tools	Key Benefits
Transparency	*Participation*	*Collaboration*		
		✓	Pilot citizen engagement technology available through apps.gov (e.g., IdeaScale) to increase public engagement and cultivate creative ideas to improve NRC's open government efforts. This technology is being used to solicit ideas for the Open Government plan. An additional business mission-focused topic area will be piloted to help evaluate potential benefits of using these technologies. Consider forming a catalyst team to foster solicitation of new ideas, moderate innovation processes, and collaborate with agency stakeholders to further evaluate and develop promising concepts.	➢ Leverage experience of the masses to drive more effective change. ➢ Foster and cultivate ideas for from diverse sources ➢ Diffuse and socialize ideas to ease culture change and increase acceptance through broader participation.
✓	✓		Enhance outreach and stakeholder involvement in public meetings by continuing to expand the use of web event and virtual meeting technologies such as Webstreaming and Web conferencing. Streamline publication of public meeting notices and summaries, and explore ways to share stakeholder feedback on meetings via the NRC website or through other means. Evaluate methods to increase citizen engagement before, during, and after public meetings. Continue to publish information on upcoming meetings and meeting archives on the NRC website.	➢ Foster greater public participation thorough use of web technologies ➢ Enable participation from any remote location with an internet connection and workstation ➢ Improve meeting planning by engaging the public in the planning process ➢ Use participant feedback to foster continuous process improvement
✓			NRC's public website serves as the central information portal providing access to informational resources, tools and services to the public. This website will be redesigned using new web technologies and industry best practices to make it easy to quickly find and access NRC regulatory informational resources. The redesign will include improved presentation and organization of content.	➢ Better engage, inform and educate the public ➢ Improve site usability, organization, search, and access to tools ➢ Foster information sharing, innovation, and engagement through use of common tools and open standards

OG Principle			Enhanced Engagement Improvements and Tools	Key Benefits
Transparency	*Participation*	*Collaboration*		
✓			Implement new subscription based services to allow stakeholders to keep abreast of the most current news and information based on topics of interest. Stakeholders will be able to select their preferred method for receiving NRC updates via notification services such as e-mail, Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds, and enhanced list service capabilities	➢ Enable stakeholders to subscribe and stay abreast of topics of interest using media (e.g. RSS, e-mail, listserv's) that enables personalizing information feeds
✓	✓	✓	Explore and evaluate potential use of new web-friendly technologies such as web and mobile "widgets" and "mashups" to enable NRC stakeholders to easily combine NRC information and tool resources into their own websites or onto their mobile devices. A mashup is a website or web application that seamlessly combines content from more than one source into an integrated user experience. Widgets are web tools such as news feeds that can be incorporated directly the user's website or mobile device. These technologies provide an innovative way to engage public stakeholders by allowing them to personalize the way they receive, use, and process information.	➢ Improve information accessibility and efficiency of information dissemination ➢ Encourage use of NRC and industry information in new and innovative ways ➢ Improve currency of information received by site users

B. Engagement of the Public and Interested Parties

As part of an open government and continuous improvement lifecycle, the NRC engages various stakeholder groups, industry participants, and the public to provide information, expertise and insights that help the agency shape its direction and improve its regulatory processes. These engagements include use of formal studies, public facing focus groups that include diverse groups of participants, public surveys and solicitation of feedback, professional services contributing broad expertise in subject areas, and experiences of other government agencies through various partnerships. As an example, the Web site redesign was initiated to address user experience challenges and needs surfaced through an agency-sponsored study including public focus groups to obtain an understanding of how the American public perceives the NRC. The information obtained through this process was instrumental in establishing the direction for the redesign. To ensure the NRC website transformation addresses public and stakeholder needs, the agency is conducting extensive usability tests with a diverse group of individuals that is representative of the Web site's public user community. This approach enables the agency to engage public and stakeholder participants throughout the process to ensure their needs are being effectively met.

Recently, the NRC has also piloted technology to cultivate idea generation using a citizen-engagement tool called IdeaScale, provided through apps.gov, to solicit ideas for the NRC's open government efforts. Promising ideas will be reviewed, vetted, and considered for prioritization and implementation. New technologies such as this provide another creative way to engage the public and drive change. The NRC recognizes the value of leveraging broad and diverse expertise and insights in conducting its regulatory activities and each phase of the Flagship initiative will use public engagement methods and tools to support the delivery of effective and efficient services.

C. Collaboration with External Partners

To support these open government activities, the NRC seeks and engages with partners who can contribute expertise and best practices in usability and user-centered Web design; current Web technologies and social media; and Federal standards, policies, and principles for information quality, security, privacy, and management control. As an example, the NRC entered into an interagency agreement with the Federal Consulting Group (FCG), a fee-for-service franchise activity within the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). Often referred to as "insiders with outsiders' knowledge," FCG is a Federal Government organization comprising senior leaders and executives from throughout the Federal Government who have managed major programs and led the transformation process to achieve high-performing, citizen-centered organizations. FCG is an ideal partner for soliciting on-going public feedback and services that will contribute to the effective transformation of the NRC website and informational services.

The NRC is also exploring the use of social media services and tools provided through the new GSA sponsored apps.gov site that can facilitate more efficient and effective collaboration activities. NRC is taking actions to solicit experiences and best practices from other agencies, industry experts, and service providers to more effectively integrate use of these new media tools into current processes and ensure appropriate use, security, governance and management.

D. Measuring Improved Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration

The NRC will use several methods for measuring the effectiveness of this flagship initiative such as:

- Average score and feedback on public on-line survey responses that will be updated to incorporate new questions to assess transparency, participation, and collaboration.
- Comparison of progress made between incremental usability audits conducted by FCG.
- Average participation rates for public meetings using new technologies to foster engagement.
- Usage metrics for new tools and services made available to foster open government goals.
- Measures for new collaboration communities to assess community growth and collaboration activity.

E. Sustaining the Initiative and Allowing for Continued Improvement

The NRC will use continuous improvement lifecycle approaches, best practices, and tools to ensure that the NRC's public website, public meetings, and information services sustain and improve transparency, participation, and collaboration with the public and other stakeholders. Examples are:

- Integration of changes to support implementation of open government activities into existing processes, policies, and the culture of the NRC.
- Evaluation and development of promising ideas submitted through tools made available on NRC's open government webpage.
- Review of constructive feedback from survey results collected from public website visitors into incorporation into actionable plans.
- Analysis of feedback on public meetings where new Web technologies (such as web meetings) are used as well as on the processes used to foster greater transparency and participation.
- Use of enterprise and cross-government approaches where possible to reduce overhead for introducing and managing the use of new web capabilities.

VII. Public and Agency Involvement

The NRC has engaged both its employees and the public in the development of this Open Government Plan.

A. Public Involvement

On January 11, 2010, the NRC issued a *Federal Register* notice in Docket NRC-2010-003 soliciting public ideas for the NRC's Open Government Plan. The notice asked the public for input on what information or data would be useful for the agency to publish online and what improvements in transparency, public participation, and collaboration the NRC should consider in developing its Open Government Plan. On the same day, the NRC issued a news release announcing the opportunity for public input and posted it on the home page of the agency's public Web site.

In addition, consistent with the OMB memorandum, the NRC has provided several alternative comment mechanisms on its Open Government Web page. One of these mechanisms, the IdeaScale brainstorming tool, allows the public to enter ideas and to vote and comment on the ideas of others. On February 5, 2010, the NRC published a second *Federal Register* notice to inform the public of this new comment submittal opportunity and to request that the public submit any comments after February 10, 2010, via the NRC's Open Government Web page. The NRC moderator for IdeaScale then added the ideas received in response to the original *Federal Register* notice to the IdeaScale site so that they could be considered along with others as part of the public dialogue. A summary of the public comments is provided in Appendix F.

As of March 19th, the closing date of the IdeaScale pilot, the agency had received a total of 28 ideas. This fairly modest level of participation may be partially explained by the fact that the agency has many other channels for communication with key stakeholders that provide opportunities for more targeted discussions. On April 1, 2010, the NRC reactivated the pilot while the agency continues to assess how best to use IdeaScale or similar tools to increase public engagement. The public can use IdeaScale to provide comments on this plan using the specific category that has been added for that purpose.

The NRC is particularly interested in the public's views on which datasets would be of most value in improving accountability, increasing economic opportunity, enhancing public knowledge, and making interactions with the agency more effective. This will help the agency direct efforts towards the datasets with the highest value to the public.

B. Employee Involvement

To develop its Open Government Plan, the NRC formed a working group with representatives from across the agency to develop ideas for the plan and gain agreement from the NRC organizational units responsible for implementing it. The working group members solicited input from other staff members within their individual organizations. In addition, the members of the agency's Communications Council, a group made up of communications specialists from across the agency, were briefed and invited to submit ideas. To stimulate ideas and suggestions and to more widely disseminate information about open government within the NRC, the agency created an internal collaborative Open Government Web site. In addition, the NRC has invited its employees to submit ideas for open government using the IdeaScale brainstorming tool at the NRC's Open Government Web site.

C. How the NRC Will Use the Ideas

The NRC is reviewing the ideas and comments received from the public through March 19th via either a response to its January 10, 2010 Federal Register Notice or the public dialog tool on the agency's Open Government Web site. The results of this review will be posted on that Web site by the end of June.

Appendix A: The NRC's Key Web Pages Supporting Open Government

Table 1: The NRC's Key Sites Promoting Transparency: Where and How To Obtain NRC Information

Web Page Title	Web Address	Description
Electronic Reading Room	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html	The entrance portal that orients the public to many of the NRC's key Web-based information dissemination channels.
Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS)	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html	Access to the NRC's online document retrieval system, ADAMS, which can be used to obtain the full text of more than 500,000 documents (records) made public over the past decade.
Document Collections	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/	Links to index pages for numerous document collections that are available chronologically in full text on the NRC public Web site. Examples are Commission papers, NRC reports (NUREG-series publications), regulatory guides, generic communications, event reports, enforcement documents, fact sheets, news releases, and NRC forms.
Basic References	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/basic-ref.html	Links to the full text of frequently requested general, administrative, and regulatory reference documents, such as NRC Regulations, the Strategic Plan, and the Performance and Accountability Report. Also includes a Student's Corner and Teacher's Lesson Plans.
Photo and Video Gallery	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/photo-gallery	Gallery and archive of NRC photos and videos beginning in April 2008. The videos include archived Webcasts of selected Commission meetings, sessions from the NRC annual Regulatory Information Conference, and other high-interest meetings. Access to upcoming Webcasts is available at http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/webcast-live.html.
Index to All Frequently Asked Questions Pages	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/faqlist.html	Index to all pages containing frequently asked questions.
Public Document Room	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/pdr.html	Services available from reference librarians in the NRC's Public Document Room to help locate and obtain documents in ADAMS or elsewhere on the public Web site.
Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/foia-privacy.html	Information about the NRC's Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act requests, guidance on what to include in a request, how to submit it, and how the NRC will process the request. Also includes a subject list of recent requests and the NRC's annual report to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Web Page Title	Web Address	Description
Required Disclosures	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/foia-request.html#access	Links to documents that the NRC is required to disclose, including agency organizational information, adjudicatory decisions, policy statements, and regulatory guidance.
Get Copies of Documents	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/copies-docs.html	An overview of how to obtain paper copies of NRC documents for the lowest cost.
Records Management	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/records-mgmt.html	Basic information about how the agency meets its Federal records management requirements. Includes a link to the agency's Comprehensive Records Disposition Schedule, the National Archives and Records Administration's General Records Schedule, and the NRC's internal records management policy. This policy outlines how the NRC complies with the regulations governing Federal records, including the transfer of permanent records to the National Archives.
Facility Information Finder	http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder.html	Information about operating power reactors and major nuclear materials facilities licensed by the NRC, as well as facilities undergoing decommissioning. Facilities may be found by name or by location.
Declassification	http://www.nrc.gov/security/info-security/declassification-program.html	Information about the NRC's declassification program, including how to access declassified records.
Subscribe to E-Mail Notices	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html	Enables site visitors to sign up to receive numerous types of NRC information, including news releases, operating reactor correspondence, Inspector General reports, and new rulemaking dockets.
Operating Reactor Correspondence	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver/plants-by-region.html	Enables site visitors to sign up to receive all outgoing public correspondence related to the operating nuclear reactors of their choice.
Congressional Affairs	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/congress-affairs.html	An overview of the responsibilities and activities of the Office of Congressional Affairs, the NRC's main conduit for NRC communications with Congress. Provides links to Congressional correspondence and testimony.
Public Affairs	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/public-affairs.html	An overview of the responsibilities and activities of the Office of Public Affairs, the NRC's main conduit for NRC communications with the media and the public.
Students' Corner	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/basic-ref/students.html	A resource for students and teachers, including lesson plans, and basic information about nuclear energy, nuclear reactors, radiation, emergency planning, security, decommissioning, and radioactive waste. As stated at the bottom of the page, these educational materials can be reproduced without permission.

Table 2: The NRC's Key Sites Promoting Transparency: Learn How the NRC Conducts Business

Web Page Title	Web Address	Description
About NRC	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc.html	Overview of the agency's mission and links to key information such as its statutory authority, Strategic Plan, budget, performance, organizational structure, locations, and outreach activities.
How We Regulate	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory.html	Diagram and overview of the NRC regulatory process.
Nuclear Reactors	http://www.nrc.gov/reactors.html	Introductory and in-depth information on the NRC's regulation of nuclear reactors.
Nuclear Materials	http://www.nrc.gov/materials.html	Introductory and in-depth information on the NRC's regulation of nuclear materials.
Radioactive Waste	http://www.nrc.gov/waste.html	Introductory and in-depth information on the NRC's regulation of radioactive waste.
Nuclear Security and Safeguards	http://www.nrc.gov/security.html	Introductory and in-depth information on how the NRC regulates the security of nuclear facilities and materials.
Business with NRC	Prominent button with drop-down menu on the left side of the NRC home page http://www.nrc.gov/	Links to information about contracting opportunities, electronic submittals, Freedom of Information Act requests, paying license fees, NRC forms, employment, and small business opportunities.
Grant Opportunities	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/grants.html	Information about grant opportunities with the NRC

Table 3: The NRC's Key Sites Promoting Public Participation: How To Get Involved in the Regulatory Process

Page Title	Web Address	Description
Public Meetings and Involvement	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve.html	The main page for learning about public involvement in NRC activities.
Schedule of Upcoming Commission Meetings	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/policy-making/schedule.html	Provides a schedule of upcoming Commission meetings with the NRC staff or outside parties or both to discuss issues before the Commission for action. Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe public Commission meetings held at NRC Headquarters. Public meetings are broadcast live on the Internet and are archived for future viewing as indicated on NRC's Meetings page. Unofficial transcripts are produced for each public meeting and are available for viewing or downloading at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/tr/.
About Meetings Open to the Public	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings.html	Provides help for stakeholders who want to participate in NRC public meetings. Includes information on live NRC meeting Webcasts, the public meeting schedule, meeting archives, and frequently asked questions about public meetings.
Conferences and Symposia	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conferences.html	Lists a schedule of upcoming NRC conferences and symposia and provides a point of contact and a link to additional information about the event.
Documents for Comment	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment.html	Provides information about how to comment on NRC documents, including rulemaking actions, licensing-related documents, and other types of documents such as draft regulatory guides, information collections, draft reports, and draft policies.
Public Involvement in Rulemaking	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/rulemaking/public-involvement.html	Describes resources available for those who would like to be involved in NRC rulemaking.
Public Involvement in Licensing	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/licensing/pub-involve.html	Explains how the public can express their views on licensing actions, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements.
Public Involvement in Decommissioning	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/decommissioning/public-involve.html	Explains how members of the public can express their views on the decommissioning of nuclear facilities.
Public Involvement in Enforcement	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/public-involvement.html	Provides help for participating in the enforcement process, including commenting on revised enforcement policies, petitioning the agency to take an enforcement action, or reporting a safety or security concern.
Public Involvement in Hearings	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing.html	Explains who can participate in a hearing and how to do so. Provides a link to listings of hearing opportunities and license applications (http://www.nrc.gov/about-

Page Title	Web Address	Description
		nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing-license-applications.html).
Report a Safety or Security Concern	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/allegations/safety-concern.html	Provides guidance on how to report a safety or security concern to the NRC in an emergency or a nonemergency situation.
NRC Information Quality Guidelines	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/info-quality.html	Enables the public to seek correction of NRC information.
Electronic Submittals	http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html	Provides access to five different systems that allow electronic transmission to the NRC of information pertaining to licensing actions, associated hearings, and other regulatory matters, as well as background checks and fitness for duty.
Business Meet & Greet Seminars	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/contracting/small-business/meet-greet-seminars.html	Provides information about the NRC's ongoing series of seminars on how to conduct business with the agency, as well as access to an archive of information pertaining to past Meet & Greet Seminars.
Contact Us	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/contactus.html	Lists primary NRC points of contact and provides access to a complete index of all contact pages.
ADAMS User Group	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/users-group.html	Provides a semiannual forum for information exchange between ADAMS public users and the NRC staff who manage the system.

Table 4: Web Sites Describing the NRC's Key Collaborative Partnerships

Page Title	Web Address	Description
State and Tribal Programs	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/state-tribal.html	Provides information about the NRC's Federal, State, and Tribal Liaison Programs. Through these programs, the NRC cooperates with Federal, State, and local governments, interstate organizations, and Native American Tribal Governments to ensure that the NRC maintains effective relations and communications with these organizations and promotes greater awareness and mutual understanding of the policies, activities, and concerns of all parties involved, as they relate to radiological safety at NRC licensed facilities.
Outreach Strategy for Indian Tribes	http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery/public.html#outreach	Provides the NRC's proactive approach to promote government-to-government relations between itself and Federally recognized Indian Tribes that have a known interest in, or may be potentially affected by, the NRC's regulation of uranium recovery facilities.
Agreement State Program	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/state-tribal/agreement-states.html	Provides information, contacts, and collaborative information about the Agreement States that have assumed regulatory authority over radioactive materials.
International Programs	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/international.html	Information on the NRC's international activities, including NRC participation in international organizations, treaties and conventions, bilateral relations, and research programs.
Standards Development	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/standards-dev.html	Provides information about how the NRC works with domestic and international voluntary organizations to develop consensus standards regarding the characteristics, performance, safety requirements, and use of systems, equipment, or materials used by the nuclear industry.
Regulation of Radioactive Materials	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/radiation/protects-you/reg-matls.html	One of several Web pages describing the NRC's collaborative activities in the regulation, export/import, control and accounting, and transportation of radioactive materials.
The NRC Source Data Team and U.S. Customs	http://www.nrc.gov/security/byproduct/export-import/source-data-team.html	Provides information about the Source Data Team that the NRC established to protect public health and safety and maintain the common defense and security by assisting U.S. Customs and Border Protection in verifying the legitimacy of shipments of radioactive material passing through the U.S. border.
Emergency Preparedness and Response	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness/federal-state-local.html	Describes Federal, State, and local responsibilities for emergency preparedness for a radiological emergency.

Page Title	Web Address	Description
Collaboration with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security	http://www.dhs.gov/NIPP http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/structure/editorial_0766.shtm	Describes the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP). The NRC collaborates with the numerous U.S. Government agencies involved in the NIPP, attending meetings of the Federal Senior Leadership Council and participating in various initiatives instituted under the NIPP. A member of the NRC staff is a permanent liaison to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, providing technical assistance in the area of material security and enabling the timely receipt of threat analyses.
Collaborative Fire Research	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/research/fire-research/collaborative.html	Describes the NRC's collaborative efforts on fire research.
Lessons Learned Information Sharing	https://www.llis.dhs.gov/index.do	Serves as a library of documents available to Federal, State, and local officials, consisting of after action reports, planning guidance, and best practices in the emergency response and security arenas. The NRC contributes information to this site.

Appendix B: Compliance with Legal Requirements for Information Dissemination

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is fully compliant with the information dissemination requirements in Section 3506(d) of the Paperwork Reduction Act. This appendix lists each component of Section 3506(d) in italics followed by a discussion of how the NRC complies with it.

(1) ensure that the public has timely and equitable access to the agency's public information, including ensuring such access through—

(A) encouraging a diversity of public and private sources for information based on government public information;

As described in Sections III.A.2 and III.A.3, the NRC makes large amounts of information available at no cost to the public via its public Web site and other Federal Web sites. The agency also makes its documents available for reproduction and further distribution through the Government Printing Office and the National Technical Information Service. In addition, other organizations that disseminate NRC information include the U.S. Department of Energy's Information Bridge, the International Atomic Energy Agency's International Nuclear Information System database, and the Nuclear Energy Agency's Energy Technology Data Exchange World Energy Base.

(B) in cases in which the agency provides public information maintained in electronic format, providing timely and equitable access to the underlying data (in whole or in part);

In Table 3 of Appendix C to this report, the NRC has identified several areas for which it will make underlying data available. Using IdeaScale, the agency is soliciting ideas from the public to determine which underlying data are of highest interest, so that the NRC may direct its resources towards increasing the availability of the most useful information.

(C) agency dissemination of public information in an efficient, effective, and economical manner;

The vast majority of the NRC's public information is in the form of documents. As described earlier, the use of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) to control and manage the dissemination of this information has proven to be not only an effective way to ensure data quality, but also a highly efficient and economical way to provide documents to the public compared with previous methods. To date, the agency has made more than 500,000 full-text documents publicly available without charge through ADAMS. Also available are about 2.0 million bibliographic citations of older records from the 1960s to 1999.

As described in Section III.A.2 and Appendix A to this plan, ADAMS is but one of the many information dissemination channels available through the NRC's public Web site. Included in the NRC's Electronic Reading Room is a page that specifically explains how to get copies of documents at the lowest cost. Most information is available at no cost through the public Web site.

In addition, users of the NRC's public Web site may subscribe to receive various categories of information through the agency's electronic subscriptions Web page. Some pages, notably the Open Government Web page, allow users to subscribe to be notified whenever the page changes. The use of electronic subscriptions to nuclear reactor correspondence in lieu of paper mailings has resulted in significant savings in handling and postage.

(2) regularly solicit and consider public input on the agency's information dissemination activities;

The agency regularly solicits and considers public input on its information dissemination activities through the regularly scheduled meetings of the ADAMS User Group (and its listserve) and through an ongoing survey at the NRC's public Web sites. The use of IdeaScale on the NRC Open Government Web site also addresses this requirement.

(3) provide adequate notice when initiating, substantially modifying, or terminating significant information dissemination products; and

The NRC always notifies the public when initiating, substantially modifying, or terminating significant information dissemination products, usually through the use of a *Federal Register* notice and a news release. Changes affecting NRC's public Web site are posted at the site. A good example is the notice given when the NRC discontinued its Local Public Document Room (LPDR) program in 1999. The agency had established the LPDRs in public and academic libraries in the vicinity of nuclear reactor and materials licensees to disseminate documents on paper and microfiche to the public. As Internet access and the electronic availability of the NRC's public documents have grown, and as budget constraints have increased, the Commission decided to discontinue funding the LPDR program beyond 1999. Before the NRC amended its regulations to reflect this change in the way it made records available to the public, the agency published in the *Federal Register* a notice on May 7, 1999, and a final rule on September 9, 1999. This gave the public advanced notice of the planned closures and provided an opportunity to submit comments.

(4) not, except where specifically authorized by statute—

(A) establish an exclusive, restricted, or other distribution arrangement that interferes with timely and equitable availability of public information to the public;
(B) restrict or regulate the use, resale, or re-dissemination of public information by the public;
(C) charge fees or royalties for resale or re-dissemination of public information; or
(D) establish user fees for public information that exceed the cost of dissemination.

The agency fully complies with these requirements. Most NRC information is available at no cost to the public through the agency's public Web site. If requested, paper copies of documents may be obtained directly from a competitively priced reproduction service through the NRC's Public Document Room. All NRC public reports are available for downloading; paper copies may also be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office or the National Technical Information Service. More information on these services is available at the Web page concerning how to get copies of documents.

Appendix C: High-Value Datasets

Table 1: High-Value Datasets Already Published

Dataset Name	Criteria	Key Audiences	Publication Date
1. U.S. Commercial Nuclear Power Reactors: Demographic Data	Public knowledge	All	October 9, 2009
2. U.S. Nuclear Research and Test Reactors: Demographic Data	Public knowledge	All	January 14, 2010
3. Commercial Contract Awards Greater than $100,000	Economic opportunity, accountability	Congress, general public, other Federal agencies	January 14, 2010
4. Operating Reactor Daily Status Reports	Responds to need or demand, economic opportunity, public knowledge	General public, licensees/nuclear industry, media, public interest groups/communities, state/local/ tribal governments	January 15, 2010

Table 2: Publication Schedule for Additional High-Value Datasets

Dataset Name	Criteria	Key Audiences	Scheduled Publication Date and Update Frequency
1. Emergency Preparedness: Two-Year Schedule of Exercises http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness/exercise-schedules.html	Public knowledge	General public, licensees/nuclear industry, other Federal agencies, state/local/tribal governments	July 30, 2010 (as needed)
2. New Reactors: License Application Schedule http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/new-licensing-files/new-rx-licensing-app-legend.pdf	Public knowledge	Congress, General public, licensees/nuclear industry, other Federal agencies, state/local/tribal governments	July 30, 2010 (monthly)
3. New Reactors: Expected License Applications http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/new-licensing-files/expected-new-rx-applications.pdf	Public knowledge	Other Federal agencies, industry, licensees, general public, Congress, public advocate groups, State regulators, and legislators	July 30, 2010 (monthly)
4. Nuclear Materials: Licensing Actions Received http://www.nrc.gov/materials/miau/material-licensing-application.html	Public knowledge	General public	September 30, 2010 (monthly)
5. Uranium Recovery Facilities: Applications in Review http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/uranium/#apps-in-review	Public knowledge	General public	September 30, 2010 (annually)
6. Uranium Recovery Facilities: Letters of Intent form Applicants/Licensees http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/uranium/ur-projects-list-public.pdf	Public knowledge	General public	September 30, 2010 (annually)
7. Uranium Enrichment Facilities: Estimated Schedules for License Applications	Public knowledge, accountability	General public, licensees	September 30, 2010 (quarterly)
8. Spent Fuel Storage: Estimated Scheduled of Licensing Actions	Public knowledge, accountability	General public, licensees	September 30, 2010 (quarterly)
9. Operating Reactor Event Reports http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html	Public knowledge, accountability	General public, licensees	September 30, 2010 (monthly)
10. Fire Event Data from Licensee Event Reports	Public knowledge	Licensees, general public	September 30, 2010 (semiannually)

Dataset Name	Criteria	Key Audiences	Scheduled Publication Date and Update Frequency
11. Fire Inspection Findings (January 2000 to December 2008)	Public knowledge	Licensees, general public	September 30, 2010 (semiannually)
12. Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Program (Monitoring and Annual Reports)	Public knowledge	General public	September 30, 2011 (annually)
13. Materials Environmental Reviews Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) http://www.nrc.gov/materials/active-nepa-reviews.html	Public knowledge	General public	September 30, 2011 (annually)

Table 3: Publication Schedule for Datasets that Provide Underlying Data Related to Already Published Information

Dataset Name	Criteria	Key Audiences	Scheduled Publication Date and Update Frequency
1. Operating Reactors Performance Indicators http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/pi_summary.html	Public knowledge, accountability	General public	September 30, 2010 (monthly)
2. Nuclear Power Plant Inspection Reports—Inspection reports are already available in ADAMS and are also provided in a special index by Power Plant in the Reactor Oversight Section of the NRC public Web site: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/listofrpts_body.html. The NRC will use inspection report documents as a pilot for publishing underlying data associated with ADAMS documents in open format. In this case, the underlying data include bibliographic data, and other metadata associated with each document, such as the docket number, document date, and subject.	Public knowledge, accountability	General public, licensees	December 31, 2010 (daily)
3. Reactor Materials Embrittlement Database—These are the data underlying the Reactor Vessel Integrity Database http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/reactor-vessel-integrity/database-overview.html	Public knowledge	Licensees, industry, international nuclear community, public interest groups	July 30, 2011 (annually)
4. Generic Safety Issues http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr0933/	Public knowledge	Industry, licensees, general public, Congress, public advocate groups, and legislators	September 30, 2011 (annually)

Table 4: Key External Audience Needs for NRC High-Value Datasets

Data Sets	Key External Audiences							
	Academia/Researchers	Congress	General Public	Licensees/Nuclear Industry	Media	Other Federal Agencies	Public Interest Groups/Communities	State/Local/Tribal Governments
Annual FOIA Reports			Y				Y	
Commercial Contract Awards Greater than $100,000		Y	Y			Y		
Emergency Preparedness: Two-Year Schedule of Exercises			Y	Y		Y		Y
Fire Event Data from Licensee Event Reports			Y	Y				
Fire Inspection Findings (January 2000 to December 2008)			Y	Y				Y
Generic Safety Issues Information		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
Materials Environmental Reviews Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)			Y					
New Reactors: Expected License Applications		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
New Reactors: License Application Schedule		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nuclear Materials: Licensing Actions Received			Y					
Nuclear Power Plant Inspection Reports		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y
Operating Reactor Daily Status Reports			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
Operating Reactor Performance Indicators	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Operating Reactors Event Reports	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Reactor Materials Embrittlement Data	Y			Y			Y	
Spent Fuel Storage: Estimated Schedules for Licensing Actions			Y	Y				
U.S. Commercial Nuclear Power Reactors: Demographic Data	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
U.S. Research & Test Reactors: Demographic Data	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Uranium Enrichment Facilities: Estimated Schedules for License Applications			Y	Y				
Uranium Recovery Facilities: Applications in Review			Y				Y	Y
Uranium Recovery Facilities: Letters of Intent from Applicants/Licensees			Y				Y	Y
Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (Monitoring and Annual Reports)			Y					

Appendix D: NRC Open Government Milestone Table

This appendix summarizes the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Key Open Government milestones discussed in this plan.

Action Item	Date
Increase the number of NRC meetings that are Webcast live for public viewing during the meeting and made available in a video archive for viewing after the meeting.	Complete
Make revisions to reactor-specific Web pages in the "Facility Information Finder" on NRC's public Web site, to improve access to key documents associated with each facility.	Complete
Post the NRC's review of ideas received through the IdeaScale public dialogue tool on the agency's Open Government page.	June, 30, 2010
Make available a new Web-based Google search tool for NRC's public documents in ADAMS.	September 30, 2010
Institutionalize a process for identifying, prioritizing, and publishing the NRC's high-value data-sets in open format, taking into account the public's input on the types of data that would be of value, and ensuring that appropriate information security reviews are completed before publication.	October 31, 2010
In response to positive public feedback on the NRC's recent Web conferencing pilot project, determine an easily expandable NRC-wide approach to support future agency Web conferencing needs. The current pilot projects will be extended until the NRC-wide solution is in place.*	December 31, 2010
Continue to pilot the use of citizen engagement technology (e.g. Idea Scale) to increase public engagement and cultivate creative ideas to improve NRC's open government efforts. Determine direction for continued and expanded use.*	January 30, 2011
Pilot initial use of social networking technology to foster engagement through interactive on-line dialogues and information exchanges.*	January 30, 2011
Implement new subscription-based services to allow stakeholders to keep abreast of the most current NRC news and information for topics of interest.*	March 31, 2011
Complete the NRC public Web site redesign.*	March 31, 2011

See also the publication schedules in Appendix C, "High-Value Datasets."

* These milestones are related to the Flagship Initiative discussed in Section VI.

Appendix E: List of Web Addresses for Hyperlinks Used in the Plan

Section	Hyperlink	Web Address
I	NRC Open Government Web Page	http://www.nrc.gov/open/
I	Open Government Initiative	http://www.whitehouse.gov/Open/
II	Principles of Good Regulation	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/values.html#principles
II	NRC Organizational Values	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/values.html
II	Open, Collaborative, Work Environment	www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/values/open-work-environment.html
III.A	NRC Management Directive 3.4, Release of Information to the Public	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/management-directives/volumes/vol-3.html
III.A	Information Quality Guidelines	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/info-quality.html
III.A	ADAMS User Group	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/users-group.html
III.A	Public Web Site	http://www.nrc.gov/
III.A	e-Subscriptions	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html
III.A	Operating Reactor Correspondence Subscriptions	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver/plants-by-region.html
III.A	Video Archive	http://video.nrc.gov/
III.A	Traditional Meeting Records	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/meeting-archive.html
III.A	Schedule for Upcoming Webcasts	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/webcast-live.html
III.A	Electronic Hearing Docket	http://ehd.nrc.gov/EHD_Proceeding/home.asp
lll.A	Public Document Room	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/pdr.html
III.A	Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/foia-privacy.html
III.A	Open Government Assessment of the NRC's FOIA Process as a Key Information Dissemination Channel	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/foia-open-gov-assess.html
III.A	Annual Chief FOIA Officer Report	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/chief-officer-reports/index.html
III.A	Data.gov	http://data.gov
III.A	*Federal Register*	http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/
III.A	Rulemaking	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/rulemaking.html
III.A	Regulations.gov	http://regulation.gov
III.A	E-Mail Notice Subscription	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html

Section	Hyperlink	Web Address
III.A	USASpending.gov	http://USASpending.gov
III.A	IT.USASpending.gov	http://it.usaspending.gov
III.A	Grants.gov	http://grants.gov
III.B	Gregory B. Jaczko's meetings and other events	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/commission/comm-gregory-jaczko/meetings.html
III.B	NRC Public Dialogue on Open Government	http://opennrc.ideascale.com/
III.B	Nuclear Fuel Services Facility in Erwin, TN	http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/materials/fuel-cycle/nuclear-fuel-services.html
IV.A	NRC's Public Meeting Web Page	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings.html
IV.A	NRC Management Directive 3.5, "Attendance at NRC Staff Sponsored Meetings"	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/management-directives/volumes/vol-3.html
IV.A	Digital Data Management System	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/ddms.html
IV.A	Regulatory Information Conference	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/ric/
IV.A	Public Meetings and Involvement	http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve.html
IV.B	White House Open Government Innovations—Web Conferencing	http://www.whitehouse.gov/open/innovations/webconferencing
V.A	MOU between the NRC and the Bureau of Land Management	http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/idmws/ViewDocByAccession.asp?AccessionNumber=ML093380828
V.A	Transportation of Nuclear Materials	http://www.nrc.gov/materials/transportation.html
V.A	Emergency Preparedness and Response	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness.html
V.A	Emergency Preparedness and Response—Federal, State, and Local Responsibilities	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness/federal-state-local.html
V.A	Emergency Preparedness in Response to Terrorism	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/emerg-preparedness/respond-to-emerg/response-terrorism.html
V.A	Agreement State Directory	http://nrc-stp.ornl.gov/asdirectory.html
V.A	Audit of the NRC's Agreement State Program	http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/insp-gen/2009/oig-09-a-08.pdf
V.A	NRC-Agreement State Working Groups	http://nrc-stp.ornl.gov/workinggroup.html

Section	Hyperlink	Web Address
V.A	Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program Toolbox	http://nrc-stp.ornl.gov/impeptools.html
V.A	Nuclear Material Events Database (NMED)	http://nmed.inl.gov/
V.A	National Source Tracking System	http://www.nrc.gov/security/byproduct/nsts.html
V.A	State and Tribal Liaison Programs	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/state-tribal/fst-liaison.html
V.A	The NRC's International Activities	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/international.html
V.A	NRC Participation in Standards Development	http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/standards-dev.html
V.B	Guidance on the Use of Challenges and Prizes to Promote Open Government	http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-11.pdf
VII.A	Docket NRC-2010-003	http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#docketDetail?R=NRC-2010-0003
VII.A	NRC Open Government Web Page	http://www.nrc.gov/open/
VII.A	IdeaScale	http://opennrc.ideascale.com/

Appendix F: Summary of Public Comments

This Appendix summarizes the comments received by the NRC as of March 19th in response to its Federal Register Notice (FRN) and through NRC's Open Government forum using IdeaScale (IS).

1. Level of Participation

As of March 19th, the NRC had received 28 ideas, primarily in the categories of transparency and participation.

2. Most Popular Ideas:

- Webcast more NRC public meetings live
- Make ADAMS documents searchable by Google and other search engines
- Provide public access to the NRC internal tool for searching inspection findings

3. Summary of Ideas by Category

Transparency

Data Availability (High Value Datasets)

- Publish licensee performance metrics, especially for non-Part 50 (reactor) licensees (FRN 1)
- Publish daily event reports in a map format (FRN 3)
- Provide access to the Sealed Source & Device Registry (FRN 4)
- Develop a database of all environmental data results collected from nuclear reactor sites (FRN 5)
- Publish current licensing basis documents as a data set (FRN 9, FRN 10-1)
- Publish a log of non-public documents (FRN 10-3)
- Publish documents that NRC has reviewed to make determinations regarding licensing, license amendments, exemptions, or violations; make these documents available online (FRN 10-4)
- Provide public access to the NRC internal tool for searching inspection findings (IS 20208-7048)

Enhancements to ADAMS and the Public Web Site

- Make publicly available documents in ADAMS searchable by Google, etc (IS 20176-7048)
- Provide better access to ADAMS including access from Apple Macintosh computers (FRN 8-1)
- "Vastly" improve the search for NRC documents (IS 20008-7048)
- Consider making the source file for documents available rather than just in PDF format (IS 19082-7048)
- Provide "one-click" access to important information such as current licensing basis data, licensing amendments, violations, corrective actions, exemption determinations, and any determinations not to such information available (FRN 8-3)

Broadening the Types of Information Available to the Public

- Make decommissioning fund information more readily available (FRN 9-3)
- Provide information about the NRC's regulatory costs (IS 27475-7048)
- Make all of NRR's office instructions public (FRN 7)
- Review past determinations on the availability of documents and put more of those public online (FRN 8-2)
- Make the 2.206 pre-hearing internal deliberation public (IS 19987-7048)
- Publish the current licensing basis for nuclear power plants (FRN 9-2, FRN 8-3, FRN 10-1)
- Make it clear to the public what is currently being done about nuclear waste, and what the future of nuclear waste disposal is. (IS 32108-7048)

Viewing Public Meetings

- Make NRC meetings accessible by putting them online live (IS 24200-7048)
- Broadcast all public meetings live (IS 22183-7048)

Transparency Workshop

- Hold an annual workshop with stakeholders to determine how well the NRC doing in becoming transparent (FRN 8-4)

Participation

- Enable public participation on writing up inspection reports (IS 20004-7048)
- Assign a senior NRC official to help every 10 CFR 2.206 petitioner (IS 20019-7048)
- Establish a plant blog or message board with public and NRC participation (IS 19994-7048)

Collaboration

- No ideas submitted in this category

Innovation

- Build a next-generation NRC open-social portal for the federal community cloud (IS 22811-7048)
- Provide New Certification Designs with Effective Reliability Assurance Plans (IS 35556-7048)

How to Improve the Dialogue (Using IdeaScale)

- Trial period for IdeaScale is too short (IS 19754-7048)
- For each idea, display the number of I Agree/I Disagree votes, as well as the average (IS 32792-7048)
- Display date and time for each post, to provide more context (IS 32792-7048)
- Create an additional item about safety either under the section "Innovation" or "Collaboration." (IS 19231-7048)