

Conference Expense Waivers and Reports

On November 9, 2011, President Obama issued [Executive Order \(EO\) 13589](#), entitled "Promoting Efficient Spending," which directed Federal agencies to "take even more aggressive steps to ensure the Government is a good steward of taxpayer money." The related [OMB Memorandum M-12-12](#), dated May 11, 2012, recognized that "the Federal Government has a responsibility to [ensure] that Federal funds are used for purposes that are appropriate, cost effective, and important to the core mission" of each agency. As part of the effort to safeguard Federal funds, Section 2 of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandum directed agencies to "exercise discretion and judgment in ensuring that conference expenses are appropriate, necessary, and managed in a manner that minimizes expense to taxpayers." Specifically, OMB outlined a series of new conference-related policies and practices, which directed agencies to initiate senior-level review of all planned conferences, initiate senior level approval of all future conference expenses in excess of \$100,000, prohibit expenses in excess of \$500,000 on a single conference (unless the agency head issues a waiver to achieve a compelling purpose), and report publicly on all conference expenses in excess of \$100,000.

Consistent with that guidance, on October 8, 2015, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Burns issued a waiver for the 2016 Regulatory Information Conference (RIC), **to be held on March 8-10, 2016**, citing exceptional circumstances under which spending more than \$500,000 on this event is the most cost-effective option to achieve a compelling purpose. Former Chairman Macfarlane issued a waiver for the 2015 RIC, held on March 10-12, 2015. The 2015 RIC was the only NRC-sponsored conference in fiscal year (FY) 2015 for which the net expenses associated with the conference exceeded \$100,000. Detail on the 2015 RIC is provided in the FY 2015 Conference Report below.

- [FY 2015 Conference Report](#)
- [Waiver for the 2013 RIC](#)
- [Waiver for the 2014 RIC](#)
- [Waiver for the 2015 RIC](#)
- [Waiver for the 2016 RIC](#)