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ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

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MAJORITY—(202) 225-5074  
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April 29, 1996

The Honorable Ivan Selin  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

Pursuant to its responsibilities under Article I of the U.S. Constitution and Rules X and XI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Government Reform and Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology is conducting an inquiry into the ability of the Federal Government's information technology systems to properly process year date fields on January 1, 2000. This year 2000 problem results from the computer software limitations that use only two digit fields to recognize the year. Consequently, many computer programs will fail to recognize the change in century and misread "00" or the year 2000, as 1900.

The Subcommittee held a hearing on this issue on April 16, 1996. All witnesses underscored to the subcommittee the importance of the Federal Government and other computer users to address this issue in an urgent and decisive manner. One witness, representing the Gartner Group, estimated the worldwide conversion cost to be up to \$600 billion. He projected that the cost to the Federal Government alone could be \$30 billion.

To assist us with our inquiry, we request the following information:

1. Has your agency begun an effort to ensure that your information systems are year 2000 compliant? If so, when did the effort begin? What steps are they taking to ensure compliance?
2. Has your agency been represented on the Interagency Working Group on the Year 2000?
3. Have you performed a risk assessment of the vulnerability of your programs and applications to the year 2000 problem? If one is planned, but has not been completed, indicate when it is expected to be completed and how it is being performed. If it has been completed, please furnish a copy.

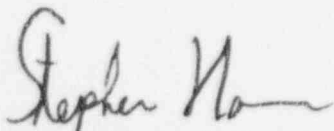
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CORRESPONDENCE PDR

4. Have you evaluated the vulnerability of your agency's systems and applications to external organizations, such as states or other entities, that fail to modify their own systems for the year 2000 problem? If one is planned, but has not been completed, indicate when it is expected to be completed and how it is being performed. If such an analysis has been completed, please furnish a copy
5. Have you developed a plan for the year 2000 problem? If one is planned, but has not been completed, indicate when it is expected to be completed and how it is being developed. If it has been completed, please furnish a copy.
6. Does your year 2000 plan, if completed, contain specific timetables and milestones? What performance indicators are you using for determining whether your computer programs and applications are year 2000 compliant?
7. Do you have contingency plans for your year 2000 project if your agency is unable to complete your year 2000 plan as scheduled? When would you make a decision to implement the plans? If available, provide a copy of the plan.
8. Do you have an inventory of the major computer programs, platforms and languages for your agency? If so, please provide the inventory to the subcommittee.
  - a. Does that inventory identify the users for each application?
  - b. Does the inventory include the total number of lines of programming code at your agency and the number of lines required to be changed?
  - c. Does the inventory provide an assessment of the likelihood that the application or program may be affected by the year 2000 problem?
9. Have you developed a prioritization of which systems need to be fixed in order to avoid an adverse impact on the public? Have you prioritized your applications and determined which ones can be set aside if all cannot be modified by 2000? Please provide a list of those major applications that have been designated secondary and the activity with which they are used.
10. Who at your agency is your project manager?
  - a. Who has overall responsibility for the year 2000 issue?
  - b. Who has day-to-day responsibility?
  - c. What other responsibilities does the day-to-day manager perform?
11. Provide an organization chart for your year 2000 project, indicating the reporting arrangements for personnel, including names, titles and grade levels. (Where appropriate, include the activities of constituent components of your agency.)

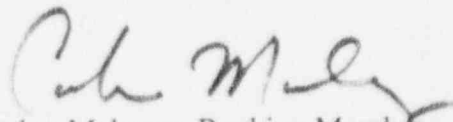
12. When was the last time you received a status report on the year 2000 project? Please provide a copy of the most recent report.
13. What resources are being devoted or do you project will be devoted the year 2000 issue?
- What are your cost estimates, by fiscal year? What are the components of those cost estimates?
  - Have you made or anticipate making any new needs requests for your year 2000 project, as opposed to providing for it through reprogramming existing budget? If so, what is the request?
  - How many man years do you estimate will be devoted to the year 2000?
  - What is your estimate of your cost per line of code for your year 2000 project?
  - Do you have any acquisition plans for this project? If so, and what is the status of your plans?
  - What proportion of the year 2000 work will be done in-house, and how much will be out-sourced?
  - Have vendors already been engaged? If so, please identify them. What is the scope and dollar value of their contract?

Your full and complete responses to these questions will be very helpful to the subcommittee. Please supply all requested information by the close of business, Friday, May 24, 1996. In addition, please notify the committee of a point of contact at your department for your response by Monday, May 6, 1996. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mark Uncapher, Professional Staff Member and Counsel, or David McMillen, Professional Staff Member.

Sincerely,



Stephen Horn, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Government Management,  
Information and Technology



Carolyn Maloney, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Government Management,  
Information and Technology