U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Open Government Plan

Update

September 2019

Purpose of the 2019 Update to the NRC Open Government Plan

In 2009, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) instructed Government agencies to incorporate the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration into daily operations. Previously published U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Open Government Plans from 2010 to 2018 identified and provided evidence on how the NRC incorporated these principles into the agency's core mission. These prior plans reflect how the NRC has always viewed these principles as critical to achieving the agency's mission to protect public health, safety, and the environment. The NRC's Open Government Plans describe concrete, measurable steps the agency has implemented to openly conduct its work, publish information online, and meet dissemination obligations.

The 2019 update provides examples of recent activities that build on previous NRC Open Government Plans published on the NRC Open Government Web page at https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/open/philosophy.html#plan and continues to demonstrate how the NRC integrates openness into the agency's core mission. This updated plan does not restate material from previously published plans. The NRC continues to pursue and expand on the key initiatives described in prior Open Government Plans and status updates.

Recent Activities

The NRC executive leadership is committed to practices that promote transparency and encourage participation in agency activities. This participation is vital in providing valuable insights to help focus agency efforts to ensure safety and security, while appropriately balancing the interests of NRC stakeholders. The following examples show how the NRC proactively promotes transparency and encourages participation:

- From August 2018 through July 2019, the NRC held over 800 public meetings to engage, solicit input from, and inform the public about the agency's regulatory activities.

- The NRC continues to focus on creating quality content for its social media platforms, primarily focused on Twitter and Facebook. Integrating expanded use of social media into the agency's existing communication tools helps increase engagement among audiences without overburdening limited resources. Social media metrics are collected and analyzed yearly from January 1 to December 31. Highlights of the 2018 calendar year include, 6,100 likes on Facebook, a 25% increase from 2017, with more than 75,000 engagements, an increase of 22% over the previous year; 40% increase in impressions and engagements on 2018 Tweets compared to previous year, with a total of 9,792 followers; and 63% increase in views of NRC content on YouTube.

- From March 12-14, 2019, the NRC's held the 31st Regulatory Information Conference. The RIC is free and open to the public, and this year there were 2295 registered participants. There were 989 confirmed users of the 2019 RIC smartphone app. The 2019 RIC app included support for attendee interaction through live polling, ability to check-in and rate technical sessions, and an opportunity to social network through the app. In addition, the NRC set-up the Twitter hashtag #NRCRIC2019 that had 133 tweets during the conference with 174K impressions (deliveries of these tweets to a Twitter users account).

- The NRC's official recordkeeping system is called the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System or ADAMS. The Publicly Available Records System (PARS), the public facing portion of ADAMS, contains more than 1.4 million documents. From

August 2018 through July 2019, approximately 67,000 public users accessed ADAMS more than 337,000 times, and searched content more that 16.2 million times.

- On March 10, 2017, the NRC stood up an externally facing rulemaking webpage that includes near real-time information regarding the NRC's rulemaking and petition for rulemaking activities - https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/rulemaking-ruleforum/active/RuleIndex.html. The information is refreshed every two weeks and provides information such as the schedule for deliverables, NRC points of contact, and the rule's priority. Information on changes since the last update to the system can be found under the Changes tab on the Rules or Petitions webpage.

- The NRC published a searchable online version of the 2019–2020 Information Digest at https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1350/. The Information Digest provides an all-in-one resource highlighting the NRC's regulatory responsibilities and licensing activities. It is an easy-to-use quick reference that illustrates notable facts about the NRC, including information on the reactor decommissioning timeline and an appendix listing all commercial nuclear power reactors in the United States.

- In 2018, the NRC set up a dedicated Web link to the privacy program, https://www.nrc.gov/privacy/. The privacy program responds to the Privacy Act of 1974, as implemented by OMB Circular A-130, "Managing Information as a Strategic Resource," updated July 28, 2016; the E-Government Act of 2002; and NRC policies. The privacy program's objective is to balance the information requirements and operational needs of the NRC against the privacy interests of the individual.

- In alignment with the NRC commitment to public participation, the NRC developed a public facing webpage - https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/plans-performance/transforming-nrc.html to inform stakeholders and members of the public about the status of efforts to transform the NRC. The NRC recognizes the need to innovate to focus energy and resources on the most important issues to maintain the safety and security mission. Topics addressed are 1) Assessing the Future, 2) Investing in Our People, 3) Modernizing NRC Decision-Making, 4) Fostering a Culture of Change, 5) Innovating How We Work, and 6) Building Strong Partnerships. As information is developed in the topic area of Transforming the NRC, information will be added to this website.

- All agency datasets and the Enterprise Data Inventory (EDI) are downloadable from the NRC's public Web page for high-value datasets at https://www.nrc.gov/data and from the Data.gov Web site at https://www.data.gov.

- The NRC has continued to routinely examine material for proactive disclosure as set forth in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 9.15, "Availability of Records," and 10 CFR 9.21, "Publicly Available Records." The agency reports on its use of proactive disclosure in the annual NRC Annual Chief Freedom of Information Act Officer Reports.