

Omb Peer Review Guidelines

Open and accountable government is one of the bedrock principles of our democracy. Yet, virtually since inauguration day, questions have been raised about the Bush Administration's commitment to this principle. News articles and reports by independent groups over the last four years have identified a growing series of instances where the Administration has sought to operate without public or congressional scrutiny. At the request of Rep. Henry A Waxman, this report is a comprehensive examination of secrecy in the Bush Administration. It analyses how the Administration has implemented each of our nation's major open government laws. The report finds that there has been a consistent pattern in the Administration's actions: laws that are designed to promote public access to information have been undermined, while laws that authorise the government to withhold information or to operate in secret have repeatedly been expanded. The cumulative result is an unprecedented assault on the principle of open government.

Publicly available statistics from government agencies that are credible, relevant, accurate, and timely are essential for policy makers, individuals, households, businesses, academic institutions, and other organizations to make informed decisions. Even more, the effective operation of a democratic system of government depends on the unhindered flow of statistical information to its citizens. In the United States, federal statistical agencies in cabinet departments and independent agencies are the governmental units whose principal function is to compile, analyze, and disseminate information for such statistical purposes as describing population characteristics and trends, planning and monitoring programs, and conducting research and evaluation. The work of these agencies is coordinated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Statistical agencies may acquire information not only from surveys or censuses of people and organizations, but also from such sources as government administrative records, private-sector datasets, and Internet sources that are judged of suitable quality and relevance for statistical use. They may conduct analyses, but they do not advocate policies or take partisan positions. Statistical purposes for which they provide information relate to descriptions of groups and exclude any interest in or identification of an individual person, institution, or economic unit. Four principles are fundamental for a federal statistical agency: relevance to policy issues, credibility among data users, trust among data providers, and independence from political and other undue external influence.Â Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency: Sixth Edition presents and comments on these principles as they've been impacted by changes in laws, regulations, and other aspects of the environment of federal statistical agencies over the past 4 years.

EPA Can Better Document Resolution of Ethics and Partiality Concerns in Managing Clean Air Federal Advisory Committees

Developments in Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, 2004-2005

On Restoring Open Government

OMB Review of CDC Research

Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007

Environmental Administrative Decisions, Decisions of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Volume 16

Scientific Review of the Proposed Risk Assessment Bulletin from the Office of Management and BudgetNational Academies Press

This book provides explanations of the key procedural laws and presidential directives that apply across-the-board to federal agencies. It contains all the significant statutes, Executive Orders, memoranda, and other materials relating to the major aspects of administrative law and regulatory practice. In addition to the primary sources, this volume includes pertinent legislative history, bibliographies of related sources, and the editors' insightful commentary on each of the source documents.

Impact of the Paperwork Reduction Act : a Report

Activities of the House Committee on Government Reform

Hearing Before the Committee on Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, One Hundred Sixth Congress, First Session, on S. 59, to Provide Governmentwide Accounting of Regulatory Costs and Benefits, and for Other Purposes, April 22, 1999

Sixth Edition

Rulemaking

A Comprehensive Compilation of Decisions, Reports, Public Notices, and Other Documents of the Federal Communications Commission of the United States

Summarizes estimates by Fed. regulatory agencies of the quantified and monetized benefits and costs of major Fed. Reg. (FR) from 1998-2008. Contents: Intro.; Chap. 1: The Benefits and Costs of FR: A. Est. of the Total Benefits and Costs of FR; B. Est. of the Benefits and Costs of This Year ç s Major Rules; C. The Impact of FR on State, Local, and Tribal Gov ç ts., Small Bus., Wages, and Econ. Growth; Chap. 2: Trends in Benefit and Cost Est.; Chap. 3: Recomm. for Reform; Chap. 4: Update on the Implementation of Info. Quality Initiatives; Part 2: Report on Agency Compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act: Intro.; Chap. 5: Review of Significant Regulatory Mandates: DoT, DHS, Dept. of Treasury, EPA, and Dept. of Commerce. Illus.

Since 1992, the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) has produced a book on principles and practices for a federal statistical agency, updating the document every 4 years to provide a current edition to newly appointed cabinet secretaries at the beginning of each presidential administration. This third edition presents and comments on three basic principles that statistical agencies must embody in order to carry out their mission fully: (1) They must produce objective data that are relevant to policy issues, (2) they must achieve and maintain credibility among data users, and (3) they must achieve and maintain trust among data providers. The book also discusses 11 important practices that are means for statistical agencies to live up to the four principles. These practices include a commitment to quality and professional practice and an active program of methodological and substantive research.

Doubt is Their Product

Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations for 1996: Agricultural programs, Farm Credit Administration

OMB's Role in Reviews of Agencies' Draft Rules and the Transparency of Those Reviews : Report to Congressional Requesters

Secrecy in the Bush administration

Federal Register

In general, the EPA managed the CASAC and Council in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations. These regulations allow agencies discretion in choosing federal advisory committee members and achieving balance. We reviewed 47 CASAC and Council member appointments, including all ozone panel appointments for the last two ozone standard reviews. We found that the EPA has adequate procedures for identifying potential ethics concerns, including financial conflicts of interest, independence issues and appearances of a lack of impartiality. However, the EPA can better document its decisions on selecting members with independence and partiality concerns. This would allow for better transparency, thus giving assurance that CASAC and the Council provide independent and objective advice to the Administrator on such important decisions as setting ambient air standards. We also identified one instance where agency procedures involving a potential conflict of interest were not followed. We also reviewed the peer review process for three EPA-developed analyses included in scientific assessments peer reviewed by the CASAC. Peer review is one method for enhancing the quality and credibility of the government's scientific information. One of these analyses was not peer reviewed in accordance with Office of Management and Budget and agency guidance. The EPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment did not have a formal process for determining whether such analyses were subject to OMB requirements and the EPA's peer review guidance before public dissemination.

"Open and accountable government is one of the bedrock principles of our democracy. Yet virtually since Inauguration Day, questions have been raised about the Bush Administration's commitment to this principle. News articles and reports by independent groups over the last four years have identified a growing series of instances where the Administration has sought to operate without public or congressional scrutiny.[t]he Bush Administration has acted to restrict the amount of government information that is available."- Executive Summary, Secrecy in the Bush AdministrationProduced at the request of Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), this report is a comprehensive examination of secrecy in the Bush Administration. It analyzes how the Administration has implemented our nation's major open government laws - yet have worked consistently to undermine them.The information contained in ON RESTORING OPEN GOVERNMENT: Secrecy in the Bush Administration covers a wide assortment of topics from restricting the public release of the papers of past presidents to expansion of the authority to classify documents to the dramatic increase in the number of documents classified.Among the documents the Bush Administration have classified and refused to release to the public and members of Congress include : .Contact between energy companies and Vice President Dick Cheney's energy task force.Communications between the Defense Department and the Vice President's office about contracts awarded to Halliburton.Documents describing the prison abuses at Abu Ghraib and the military's related actions.Information regarding what The White House knew about Iraq's weapons of mass destructionIncluded is a section relating to Restoring Open Government (H.R. Bill 5073) proposed in September 2004 by Rep. Henry A. Waxman and referred to The Committee on Government Reform.

Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission

FCC Record

Hearing Before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, One Hundred Tenth Congress, First Session, March 19, 2007

Hearings Before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate

Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations for 2005

Review Procedures for Water Resources Project Planning

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, through its civil works program, can take pride in its contributions throughout our nation's history to the development of waterways infrastructure, navigation, flood damage reduction, water resources development and protection, and environmental restoration. Many projects that have been pioneering in their concept and bold in their execution were made possible by the creativity and dedication of outstanding scientists, engineers, and builders. The Corps has always had review processes for evaluation of its planning studies and projects, with the focus often being largely on the technical aspects. In recent years, however, increased consideration of such factors as environmental impacts, economic evaluations, political pressures, and new paradigms about flood control and management has engendered increased criticism and concern that some of the Corps' studies may have led to conclusions, recommendations, and project decisions that are not adequately supported by the assumptions and analyses that were used. The focus of the report is on review of Corps of Engineers studies, with careful attention given to the need for independent, external reviews by panels of well-qualified and impartial experts for large, complex, and sensitive projects.

"Doubt is our product," a cigarette executive once observed, "since it is the best means of competing with the 'body of fact' that exists in the minds of the general public. It is also the means of establishing a controversy." In this eye-opening expose, David Michaels reveals how the tobacco industry's duplicitous tactics spawned a multimillion dollar industry that is dismantling public health safeguards. Product defense consultants, he argues, have increasingly skewed the scientific literature, manufactured and magnified scientific uncertainty, and influenced policy decisions to the advantage of polluters and the manufacturers of dangerous products. To keep the public confused about the hazards posed by global warming, second-hand smoke, asbestos, lead, plastics, and many other toxic materials, industry executives have hired unscrupulous scientists and lobbyists to dispute scientific evidence about health risks. In doing so, they have not only delayed action on specific hazards, but they have constructed barriers to make it harder for lawmakers, government agencies, and courts to respond to future threats. The Orwellian strategy of dismissing research conducted by the scientific community as "junk science" and elevating science conducted by product defense specialists to "sound science" status also creates confusion about the very nature of scientific inquiry and undermines the public's confidence in science's ability to address public health and environmental concerns Such reckless practices have long existed, but Michaels argues that the Bush administration deepened the dysfunction by virtually handing over regulatory agencies to the very corporate powers whose products and behavior they are charged with overseeing. In Doubt Is Their Product Michaels proves, beyond a doubt, that our regulatory system has been broken. He offers concrete, workable suggestions for how it can be restored by taking the politics out of science and ensuring that concern for public safety, rather than private profits, guides our regulatory policy. Named one of the best Sci-Tech books of 2008 by Library Journal!

Independent Peer Review of Products that Support Agency Decision-making

2000-

Government Auditing Standards - 2018 Revision

Scientific Review of the Proposed Risk Assessment Bulletin from the Office of Management and Budget

Amending Executive Order 12866

*108-1 Hearing: Independent Peer Review of Products That Support Agency Decision-Making, (108-9), March 5, 2003, **

As with the first edition, this second edition describes how environmental health policies are developed, the statutes and other policies that have evolved to address public health concerns associated with specific environmental hazards, and the public health foundations of the policies. It lays out policies for what is considered the major environmental physical hazards to human health. Specifically, the authors describe hazards from air, water, food, hazardous substances, and wastes. To this list the authors have added the additional concerns from climate change, tobacco products, genetically-modified organisms, environment-related diseases, energy production, biodiversity and species endangerment, and the built environment. And as with the first edition, histories of policymaking for specific environmental hazards are portrayed. This edition differs from its antecedent in three significant themes. Global perspectives are added to chapters that describe specific environmental hazards, e.g., air pollution policies in China and India. Also there is the material on the consequences of environmental hazards on both human and ecosystem health. Additionally readers are provided with information about interventions that policymakers and individuals can consider in mitigating or preventing specific environmental hazards.

Special edition of the Federal Register, containing a codification of documents of general applicability and future effect ... with ancillaries.

Allegations of Political Interference with Government Climate Change Science

Hearing Before the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, United States Senate, One Hundred Tenth Congress, First Session, December 13, 2007

Joint Hearings Before the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Hazardous Materials and the Subcommittee on Health and Environment of the Committee on Commerce, House of Representatives, One Hundred Fourth Congress, First Session, on Title III--H.R. 9, the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act of 1995, February 1 and 2, 1995

Environmental Policy and Public Health

OMB's Guidance and Initial Implementation

Risk assessments are often used by the federal government to estimate the risk the public may face from such things as exposure to a chemical or the potential failure of an engineered structure, and they underlie many regulatory decisions. Last January, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a draft bulletin for all federal agencies, which included a new definition of risk assessment and proposed standards aimed at improving federal risk assessments. This National Research Council report, written at the request of OMB, evaluates the draft bulletin and supports its overall goals of improving the quality of risk assessments. However, the report concludes that the draft bulletin is "fundamentally flawed" from a scientific and technical standpoint and should be withdrawn. Problems include an overly broad definition of risk assessment in conflict with long-established concepts and practices, and an overly narrow definition of adverse health effects -- one that considers only clinically apparent effects to be adverse, ignoring other biological changes that could lead to health effects. The report also criticizes the draft bulletin for focusing mainly on human health risk assessments while neglecting assessments of technology and engineered structures.

How Industry's Assault on Science Threatens Your Health

Good Governance Or Regulatory Usurpation? : Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law of the Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, One Hundred Tenth Congress, First Session, February 13, 2007

Third Edition

Hearings Before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, One Hundred Ninth Congress, Second Session

EPA-100-B.

Risk Assessment and Cost/benefit Analysis for New Regulations