



# U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

# Open Government Plan

Update

September 2018

## Purpose of the 2018 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 2017 identified and provided evidence on how the NRC incorporated these principles into the agency's core mission. Previous plans gave examples showing 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 2018 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. The 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 2017 through July 2018, the NRC held over 850 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. Examples of these expanded uses are live-tweeting from the Regulatory Information Conference, and creating short and interesting videos for Facebook that inform and educate. Audience size, engagement and viewership continue to increase. The NRC's Twitter account is nearing 10,000 followers, while the NRC's Facebook page has gained more than 5,700 likes since launching in August 2014. NRC's Facebook posts have garnered nearly 98,000 engagements (comments, likes on posts, shares, clicks anywhere in posts, and views on videos) since the platform's launch.
- The NRC published a searchable online version of the 2018–2019 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 27, 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.

- The NRC is committed to making public participation as expansive and meaningful as possible. In 2018, the NRC initiated a project to assess ways of transforming its regulatory framework, culture, and infrastructure related to the regulation of new and advanced nuclear technology. The overall objective of this initiative is to identify potential transformative changes to further enhance the agency's agility, efficiency, and effectiveness in accomplishing its safety and security mission. As part of this effort, the NRC reached out to a wide range of stakeholders and other interested parties, including those in the countries of Finland and Japan; the Nuclear Energy Agency, Nuclear Innovation Alliance, Nuclear Energy Institute, Dominion Energy and Lockheed Martin, the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. General Services Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; members of the public; licensees; and the Union of Concerned Scientists.
- In 2018, the NRC updated the publicly releasable datasets cataloged in the Enterprise Data Inventory (EDI) as human and machine-readable publications. All agency datasets and the 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.
- NRC's spending details are provided at <https://www.usaspending.gov/#/agency/554>.
- In 2018, to address the requirements of the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, the NRC required all supervisors to complete a new course on "Prohibited Personnel Practices and Whistleblower Training for Supervisors." The NRC recorded the course material and presentation for employees to view as well.