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To: David C. Childs A-76comments/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Feedback regarding arbitrary time limits for A-76 completion

Is the *true* purpose of the A-76 studies to save the government money or would it more honestly be considered a return to the spoils system, costs be damned? The second conclusion seems more likely as agencies are arbitrarily forced to complete their studies within a timeframe that is unrealistic and potentially detrimental to taxpayers (and yes to government employees). On the other hand, the 12-month timeframe most certainly does seem to benefit contractors -- and they will benefit in two ways: first, the agency will be unlikely to have sufficient time to construct a truly competitive MEO; and second, items missed due to unnecessary (and avoidable) haste will need to be added to the contract at far a greater cost to the government than had the time been available to properly complete the study.

While you may have had one or two contractors ("parties") say 12 months is a sufficient period of time I doubt that that was the mainstream opinion. One could just as easily find people (economists, mind you) who would have sworn last January that the Dow would be at 12,000 right now. However, as those people were outside the mainstream of popular (and in that case commonsense) thought, they were scoffed at.

I urge you to do the same regarding the "feedback" you received regarding how long an A-76 should take. Having received accredited PWS and A-76 training I can assure you that arbitrary time constraints are counterproductive, and quite frankly contrary to the vision of A-76 as set forth in Paragraph 5.a. (**Policy, Achieve Economy and Enhance Productivity**) of Circular A-76 as revised in 1999. If one truly cares about enhancing quality, economy and productivity then one would be more than willing to allow an appropriate time for any study to be completed. Additionally, you have done little (nothing, actually) to explain why it is so urgent that we "fundamentally have to move" and rush through this process -- in fact, this lack of an explanation leads many federal employees to feel that this whole process is nothing but political.

It saddens me greatly that the service and dedication of federal employees is being trivialized and sacrificed on the altar of Machiavellian desires.

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"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety *deserve neither liberty nor safety.*" Ben Franklin, 1755

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