For Release: IMMEDIATE
May 29, 1998

Contact: Donald L. Ladd
202–512–0707
<dladd@gpo.gov>
No. 98–15

GPO ACCESS PROVIDES "POINT AND CLICK" INTERFACE
TO ONLINE *FEDERAL REGISTER*

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) has provided enhancements to services being made available by *GPO Access* for accessing the *Federal Register* via the Internet (http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html). The new feature permits the user to browse an HTML contents page of each published *Federal Register.* The HTML contents pages include links to the ASCII text and *Adobe's* PDF (Portable Document Format) file of all listed documents.

The new interface has been greeted enthusiastically by users. As one user commented:

> ★ Greetings from a daily user of the electronic FR. We love the new format—being able to click directly to the full text of an item right from the index! A terrific innovation!

The ability to utilize the *GPO Access* Wide Area Information System's (WAIS) search engine using key word searches and the boolean operators AND, OR, NOT, and ADJ, has been retained.

While today the *Code of Federal Regulations* is the single most heavily used database on *GPO Access,* since 1994 the *Federal Register* has been used more than any of the other 70+ *GPO Access* databases, with more than 52.4 million individual *Federal Register* documents retrieved overall. Monthly *Federal Register* document retrievals now average more than 2.5 million.

Commenting on this recent development, Public Printer Michael F. DiMario said, "This is yet another example of GPO's continuing effort to meet the information product needs of the American public using the most frequently-requested technologies."

GPO Access services are provided in accordance with the requirements of Public Law 103-40, the "Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993." *GPO Access* was introduced on June 8, 1994. Since December 1, 1995, *GPO Access* has offered no-fee public access to a broad range of information products from all three branches of the Federal Government. Overall, nearly 141.9 million documents have been retrieved by the public from *GPO Access* since 1994, and monthly document retrievals today average more than 12 million.

GPO provides comprehensive and equitable public access to Federal electronic information available through *GPO Access*. *GPO Access* supports a wide variety of access methods: from dial-up and telnet to the World Wide Web (Web) interface, gateway libraries, and public access terminals. *GPO Access* reaches people with all levels of technical capabilities.

GPO is constantly improving the *GPO Access* service in response to public needs and user feedback. Focus groups and surveys monitor the usability of the service and pinpoint areas for improvement. Such monitoring has led to a streamlining of the *GPO Access* homepage and secondary pages, as well as numerous database enhancements.

Development has been started that will incrementally provide a similar capability for other publications resident on *GPO Access,* including the *Code of Federal Regulations*.