What Information is the Public Really Asking For?

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Overview

- Review of information requirements methodologies and interim results
- How data should be organized to facilitate public access
- Tools to facilitate retrieval and analysis
- Long term issues

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Information Requirements Methodologies and Interim Results

- Statutory/Program/Regulatory Review
- EPA Business Model – Customer-needs centered
- Relative Federal Agency Role - Information boundaries defined in relation to other federal agencies' missions
- Synthetic - Comprehensive conceptual analytical model
- Integrated Requirements

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Statutory/Program/Regulatory Review

- Produce non-redundant list of all laws, regulations, administrative guidance, and related program materials
- Identify information-related aspects of those materials
- Produce non-redundant list of information objectives
- Produce conceptual framework for information objectives

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EPA Business Model

- Identify non-redundant list of all “publics” who have an interest in EPA information (industry, media, academia, advocates, other federal agencies, state/local government, international agencies, etc.)
- Codify publics’ business models and identify information inputs
- Identify EPA data sources that can satisfy publics’ business objectives
- Identify other federal agency data that will complement EPA data sources to satisfy publics’ business objectives (e.g., health data)

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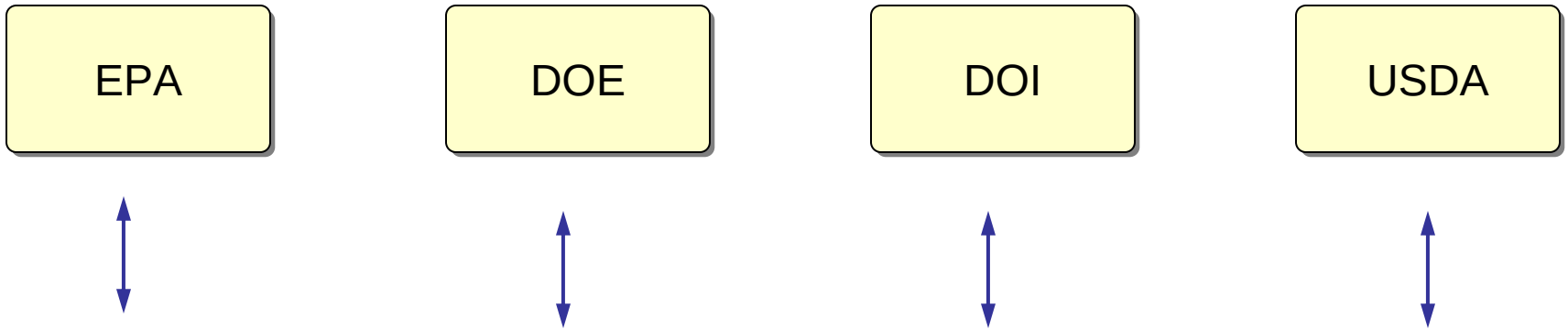
Federal Agency Data Jurisdictions

(Partial examples)



Ongoing Issues:

EPA - USDA – Agricultural effects
DOE - DOI – Energy production on public lands
EPA - DOE – Industrial energy efficiency standards
EPA - FTC – Product safety
EPA – NASA – Earth Sensing

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Synthetic – Comprehensive Conceptual Analytical Models

- Ecosystem life cycle
- Product life cycle
- Heuristic prediction matrices
- Political dialectic

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How Data Should Be Organized to Facilitate Public Access

- Preferred information architecture – based on synthesis of conceptual frameworks from multiple requirements analyses
- Priority registries and common keys
- Search syntax and menu systems that reflect business models and overarching information architecture
- Topical issue analysis

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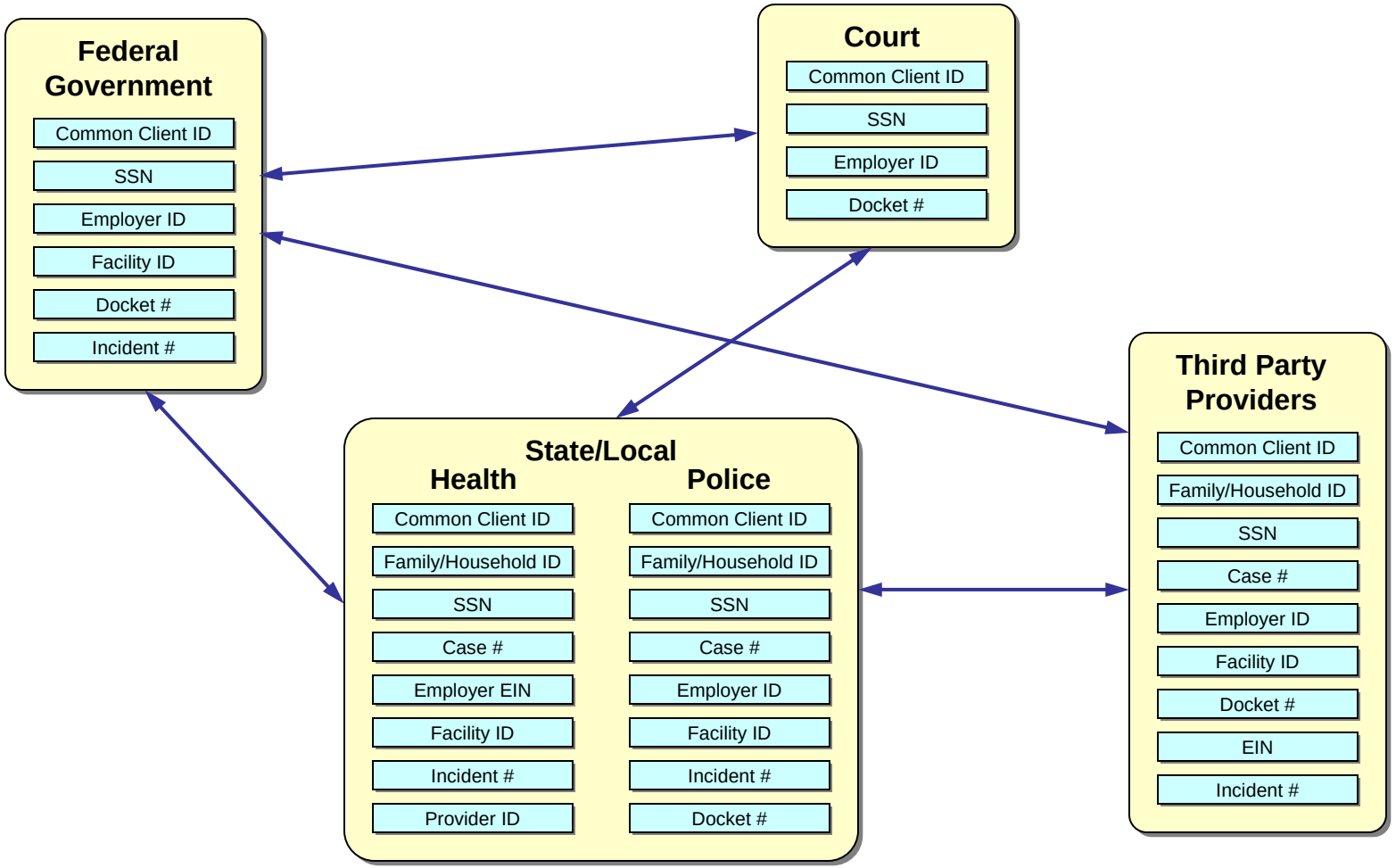
Government Information Keys



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An Integrated Facility Identification System

- EPA should implement a Master File system at the national level to house core facility identification (ID) data
- Facility managers would directly submit their changes to the single Master File system under formally promulgated regulations
- All media programs and regional offices would use and share the core facility ID data in the single Master File system and eliminate ID redundancies in their own systems
- EPA should begin a joint federal/state/respondent/public process to develop facility ID definitions and rules that meet all federal and state legislative and regulatory requirements
- State environmental agencies, at their discretion, would rely on the Master File system as they develop the capacity to maintain and update their own facility ID records

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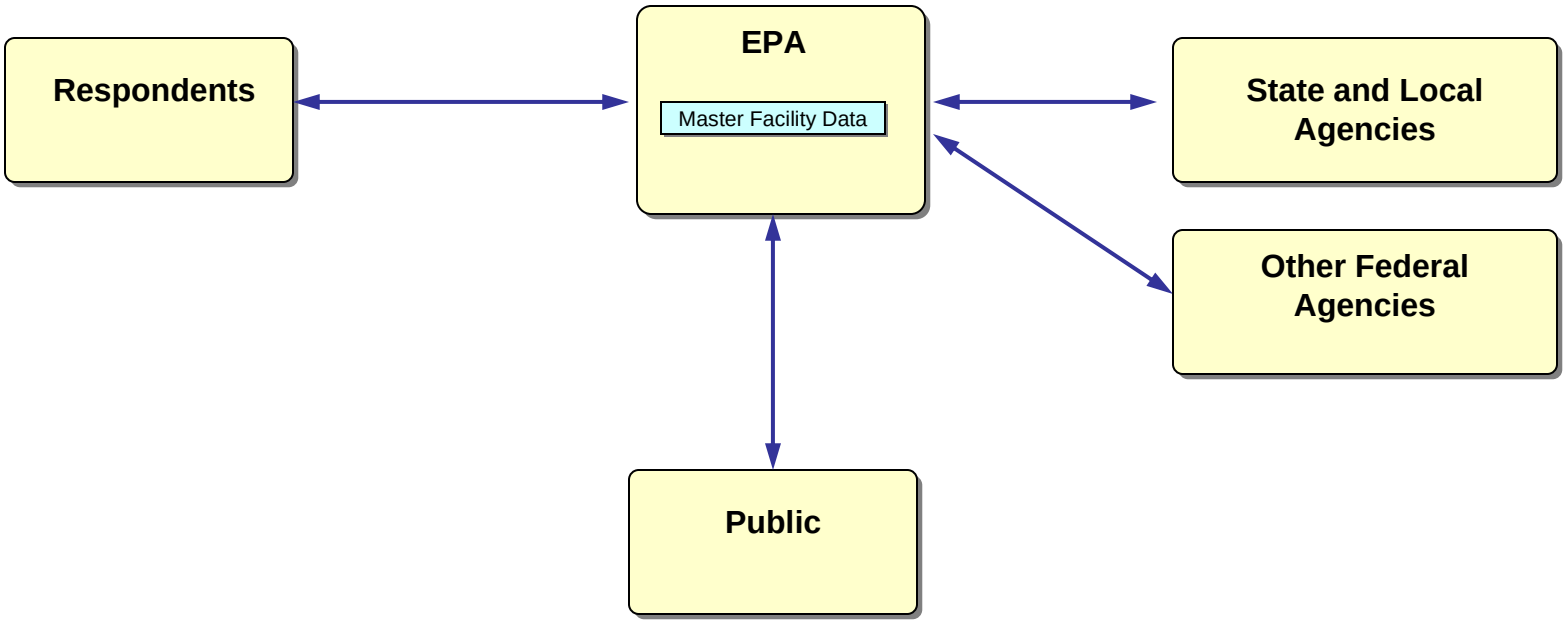
Proposed Reporting Framework for Master Facility ID System



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Description of Suitable Tools to Facilitate Retrieval

- Fully Integrated Databases
- Central Registries and Master Keys
- Non-Redundant Data Sources
- Facet Reports (chemical, facility, regulatory program, regulated entity, ecosystem, etc.)
- Integrated Search Syntax (EPA and federal)
- Report Writer with “sharing” utilities
- Google Earth Overlay with Federal “Wiki” Tags
- Specialized support for “publics” business processes (real estate assessment)

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Long-Term Issues

- EPA/federal data jurisdiction
- Federal Inter-agency data sharing mechanisms
- Public assurance of safety (air, water, products, ecosystem, etc.)
- Public assurance of issue remediation
- Long-range analysis and prediction
- Minimization of political involvement in science
- Integration of government and commercial services

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