



NRC NEWS

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Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa.resource@nrc.gov

Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

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NRC PUBLISHES NEW OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN; NOW SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission unveiled today its new Open Government Plan, which reiterates the agency's longstanding commitment to openness and outlines plans for new transparency, participation and collaboration initiatives. The NRC also re-opened IdeaScale, a user-friendly citizen engagement tool originally piloted in February and March. The pilot will continue through June, at which time it will be evaluated and the results of the ideas posted online.

"Helping the public to better understand and participate in our regulatory processes strengthens our decision making and supports our health, safety and environmental mission," said NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko. "The NRC's Open Government Plan strengthens our communication with the public and builds public confidence through expanded outreach and supports the President's Open Government Initiative."

Last December, the Office of Management and Budget directed the heads of executive departments and agencies to implement the principles of transparency, participation, and collaboration outlined in the President's Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government. Although the NRC is not required to comply with the directive, it chose both to participate in IdeaScale and to develop an Open Government plan.

The NRC plan has seven sections: an introduction; a section on leadership, governance, and change management; one section each on transparency, participation, and collaboration; a section describing the agency's flagship initiative for open government; and a section describing how the NRC has engaged and will continue to engage the public and agency employees to achieve continuous improvement of the plan. Specific initiatives outlined in the plan include:

- Increasing the number of NRC meetings that are Webcast live for public viewing and made available in a video archive for viewing after the meeting;
- Continuing to pilot the use of IdeaScale to increase public engagement and cultivate creative ideas to improve NRC actions;

- Making a new Web-based Google search tool available for the NRC's public documents in ADAMS;
- Piloting the use of social networking technology to foster engagement through interactive on line dialogues and information exchanges; and
- Completing the NRC public Web site redesign.

The NRC also plans to publish a variety of new high-value data sets over the next two years, including data associated with event reports and performance indicators for operating reactors, generic safety issues, and various types of license applications.

The NRC invites the public to comment on its Open Government Plan by using the IdeaScale public dialogue tool. A specific category has been added for ideas related to the plan.

The plan, IdeaScale and more information about Open Government can be found at these Web addresses: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/open/philosophy/nrc-open-gov-plan.pdf>, <https://opennrc.ideascale.com> and <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/open.html>. More information on the directive in general, can be found here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/open/documents/open-government-directive>.

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