July 29, 2015

Dear Senate and House Appropriations Committees:

This letter is submitted in fulfillment of Division B of the Joint Explanatory Statement for the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015. That statement directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to report on progress at each Federal Department and Agency in developing, finalizing, and implementing a plan to increase public access to the results of Federally-funded scientific research. This letter provides an update since my April 2015 report to you on the progress that Federal Departments and Agencies have made in response to an OSTP policy memorandum issued in February 2013 on *Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research*.

The February 2013 OSTP memorandum directed each Federal agency with over $100 million in annual conduct of research and development expenditures to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of Federally-funded research. In my April 2015 update to the Committees, I provided details on the progress Departments and Agencies had made, with 14 public access plans already approved by OMB and OSTP. Appendix A lists the 13 that are publically available to date. OSTP and OMB have not yet issued final approval for the plans from the remaining Departments and Agencies; four of these have resubmitted drafts of their plans to OSTP, and we are working with them to finalize the details necessary to achieve the goals outlined in the February 2013 memorandum. Two additional Departments or Agencies are still developing their plans and are making steady progress toward producing their draft plans for review. We hope to be able to provide final approval to the remaining plans soon.

Each existing plan details timelines for implementation and funding information for implementation. Implementation is at various states across the Departments and Agencies. Several Departments and Agencies have already implemented or are in the process of implementing the requirements. Department and Agency publication and data management plan systems also are intended to evolve to best meet the needs of the public based on experience gained. We therefore anticipate the implementation details to change over time to meet the evolving needs of the scientific community and public. For example, several Departments and Agencies have taken proactive steps to require all funded researchers to make the data underlying scientific publications available for free at the time of initial publication.

In the February 2013 Memorandum, agencies were asked to identify "resources within the existing agency budget". Beyond that request, OSTP has refrained from requiring budget breakdowns detailing how agencies choose to implement the policy. Therefore OSTP does not have cumulative cost estimates for implementation. Departments and Agencies can choose to request more funding in their budgets for implementing their plans and some Departments and Agencies may also request additional funding for efforts that go beyond the requirements of the plan (e.g., for increasing access to the data underlying the conclusions of scientific research papers and for data services).

OSTP will continue to work with Agencies to finalize and approve the remaining draft plans and to expand access to the data underlying scientific publications resulting from Federally-funded research.

Sincerely,

John P. Holdren
Director and
Assistant to the President for Science and Technology

Appendix A. List of Federal Department and Agency Public Access Plans

Department of Agriculture
http://www.usda.gov/documents/USDA-Public-Access-Implementation-Plan.pdf

Department of Defense
http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/pdf/dod_public_access_plan_feb2015.pdf

Department of Energy
http://energy.gov/downloads/doe-public-access-plan

Department of Health and Human Services
http://www.hhs.gov/open/public-access/

>   Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
>   http://www.ahrq.gov/funding/policies/publicaccess/index.html
>
>   Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
>   http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/science/Pages/AccessPlan.aspx
>
>   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
>   http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/index.htm
>
>   Food and Drug Administration
>   http://www.fda.gov/ScienceResearch/AboutScienceResearchatFDA/ucm433459.htm
>
>   National Institutes of Health
>   http://grants.nih.gov/grants/NIH-Public-Access-Plan.pdf

Department of Veterans Affairs
http://www.research.va.gov/resources/policies/public_access.cfm

National Institute of Standards and Technology
http://www.nist.gov/data/upload/NIST-Plan-for-Public-Access.pdf

NASA
http://science.nasa.gov/media/medialibrary/2014/12/05/NASA_Plan_for_increasing_access_to_r
esults_of_federally_funded_research.pdf

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/noaa_documents/NOAA_Research_Council/NOAA_PARR_Plan_v5.04.
pdf

National Science Foundation
http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/public_access/