



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 29, 2003

2003-34

**OMB PROPOSES DRAFT PEER REVIEW STANDARDS FOR REGULATORY SCIENCE**

Washington D.C.—The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) proposed today a standardized process by which all significant regulatory-science documents will be subjected to peer review by qualified specialists in appropriate technical disciplines. Although some federal agencies already practice peer review, there are no minimum, government-wide standards for peer review.

"Peer review is an effective way to further engage the scientific community in the regulatory process. A more uniform peer review policy promises to make regulatory science more competent and credible, thereby advancing the Administration's "smart-regulation" agenda. The goal is fewer lawsuits and a more consistent regulatory environment, which is good for consumers and businesses." said Dr. John D. Graham, OIRA Administrator.

As described in the proposed Bulletin, each federal agency will report annually to OIRA on the significant regulatory science documents the agency anticipates issuing in the coming year. The roster of studies, including scientific, engineering and economic analyses, will include a short statement of the agency's peer review plan for each study. OIRA, in collaboration with the Office of Science and Technology Policy, will consult with agencies on the adequacy of these plans.

For the most significant regulatory information, the draft Bulletin:

- establishes uniform government-wide standards for the peer review,
- focuses on the role of public participation in peer review activities, the content of peer review reports, and the agency's responsibilities to respond to the comments of peer reviewers,
- and requires disclosure of a peer review panel.

In order to conserve scarce agency resources, the proposed Bulletin authorizes agencies to tailor the intensity of the peer review to the importance of the document. If information has already been subject to adequate peer review (e.g., by a respected scientific journal), the Bulletin permits agencies to use that peer review to satisfy the requirements of the Bulletin.

The OIRA proposal comes in the form of a draft "Bulletin" that was released today. The Bulletin will be modified, as appropriate, based on public comment and interagency review. OIRA currently intends that the final Bulletin will take effect next February.

###