EPA Open Government Progress Report: FY2012 – 2nd Quarter

Contents and Highlights

Addressed in this document:

- EPA's OpenGov Plan 2.0 is released and identifies related initiatives being tracked the next two years
  - Expanding Public Participation in Developing Regulations (eRulemaking & Regs.gov)
  - Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Module
  - Science-Based Decision Support Tools
  - Data-Focused Efforts and the Strategic Data Action Plan (SDAP) 2.0
- Greater Transparency: Confidentiality Claims Now Must be Substantiated Upfront Under New Reporting Requirements for Chemicals Submitted under the Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA)
  - Rule instituted last year – first reporting period is February 2012 to June 2012
  - Industry also now required to submit reports electronically
  - EPA continues to challenge confidential business information (CBI) claims
- Making Data More Accessible:
  - EPA released Greenhouse Gas Reporting Data and opened or extended comment periods regarding data confidentiality treatment under the Clean Air Act (CAA)
  - The Agency published a catalogue of Superfund web resources in Spanish and is in the process of including this link on relevant webpages
  - EPA and Scholastic Offer Spanish version of "The Magic School Bus Gets Cleaned Up"/Children's book teaches science and environmental awareness
- Providing More Chemical Information to the Public: Several Examples
- Leveraging Partnerships and Technology: Ocean Data Portal
- Reaching Out: Community Engagement Flagship Initiative
- Fostering Energy and Cost Savings: User Friendly Web Tool Helps Public Find Power Providers by Zip Code
- Protecting the Public on Beaches and Waterways: Improved Websites/Tools
- Collaboration and Participation: Examples of Opportunities
- Partnering Across Government and with Industry: Examples of Opportunities

Challenge Activity

- EPA announced the "Sunwise with SHADE 2012 Poster Contest"
- Visit http://challenge.gov/epa#&panel1-3 to see a current status of all EPA challenges

Transparency, Participation and Collaboration Actions/Opportunities:

- Over the past quarter EPA offered many ways for the public to get informed and involved including:
  - Published 16 speeches from Administrator Lisa Jackson
  - Posted 6 EPA Congressional hearing testimonies
- Please visit our open site (http://www.epa.gov/open/) for upcoming events

EPA releases its **Open Government Plan 2.0**

- The White House requested that Agencies update their OpenGov plans and publish a 2.0 version
- We took a streamlined approach to updating the EPA OpenGov plan for several reasons
  - EPA's OpenGov Plan 1.0 reported on EPA's transparency legacy, open successes and future plans, making it a lengthy document
  - We established a robust OpenGov page with access to a suite of reports, plans, and project news
  - In addition, we designed a quarterly reporting process and format that keeps stakeholders updated on flagships; transparency, collaboration and participation opportunities in a given quarter; and point the public to links for current or upcoming opportunities
- As part of our OpenGov Plan 2.0, EPA committed to 4 open initiatives in the next 2 years
  - Expand Public Participation in Developing Regulations (eRulemaking & Regs.gov) – EPA is overhauling Regulations.gov to improve and enhance the public's experience, developing APIs to make data easier to consume, and leveraging social media and partnerships to expand public involvement
  - Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Module – Partnership between EPA, the Department of Commerce, and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to create a portal for the public to submit a FIOA request, process and track the request, search and view other FOIA requests –for participating agencies; functionality will include a repository of responsive records available to the public and agencies for reuse, support for billing/customized invoices for charge backs and production of annual FOIA reports
  - Science-Based Decision Support Tools – EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Program is developing a number of tools, including two that specifically support OpenGov principles:
    - Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST), a community mapping and assessment tool which is being designed to facilitate local population-based cumulative exposure/risk assessments, and help identify and prioritize issues for risk ranking
    - Tribal-Focused Environmental Risk and Sustainability Tool (Tribal-FERST) which will also incorporate information on unique considerations for assessing and fostering tribal well-being
  - Data-Focused Efforts and the Strategic Data Action Plan (SDAP) 2.0 – EPA will update the SDAP by the end of FY2012 to reflect progress achieved since SDAP 1.0 was released, and to address and incorporate new and evolving data efforts emerging from communities and the White House

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Providing More Chemical Information to the Public

EPA releases the <u>final health assessment for Tetrachloroethylene (Perc)</u>
- The final health assessment characterized perc as a "likely human carcinogen"
- Perc is a chemical solvent widely used in the dry cleaning industry, in the cleaning of metal machinery and to manufacture some consumer products and other chemicals
- Provides estimates for cancer and non-cancer effects associated with exposure to perc over a lifetime

EPA releases <u>FY2010 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis</u>
- The TRI National Analysis is an annual report of EPA's analysis and interpretation of recent TRI data
- Provides national and local trends in toxic chemical disposal or other releases to the environment

Leveraging Partnerships and Technology: Oceans Data Portal

- EPA partnered with other agencies in the National Ocean Council (NOC) to launch <u>Ocean.data.gov</u>, a portal for data, information and tools to support the future of the ocean, coasts and Great Lakes
- The Agency participated in an interagency, industry and NGO collaboration to identify improvements for the tool used to track, predict, manage, and adapt to changes in these bodies of water
- Information from the collaboration session is being incorporated into a modernization effort for the Integrated Ocean Observation System (IOOS)

Reaching Out: Community Engagement Flagship Initiative

Approach
- Highlights of our Flagship efforts, in varying stages of progress, are provided via links below
- To support sharing experiences internally and externally, we captured <u>benefits, lessons learned</u> and other qualitative information for many of the Flagship efforts (updated as flagships conclude)

Flagship Theme: Expanding the Environmental Conversation with Communities:
- <u>Urban Waters (Completed)</u>
- <u>Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results (Ongoing)</u>
- <u>Improve Delivery of Information to Communities (Ongoing)</u>
- <u>Faces of the Grassroots (Completed)</u>

Flagship Theme: Expanding Public Awareness & Involvement in Developing Rules and Regulations:
- <u>Healthy Waters (Ongoing)</u>
- <u>Chesapeake Bay TMDL Webinar Series (Completed)</u>
- <u>NPDES Pre-proposal Involvement (Completed)</u>
- <u>Rulemaking Gateway (Completed)</u>

Flagship Theme: EPA Mobile Apps to Empower Citizen's Environmental Decisions:
- See <u>Apps for the Environment Challenge</u> and <u>EPA's Mobile web site</u> for additional information

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Fostering Energy and Cost Savings: Electricity Generation Impact Database Updated and User Friendly Web Tool Helps Public Find Power Providers by Zip Code

- Updated Emissions and Generation Integrated Resource Database (eGRID), the EPA database that helps Americans understand the health and environmental impacts of electricity generation
- Also updated Power Profiler, a web tool to help consumers understand how clean their power is and how it compares with the National average

Protecting the Public on Beaches and Waterways: Improved Websites/Tools

- EPA released an improved version of a web tool for beach advisories and closures, Beach Advisory and Closing On-line Notification (BEACON 2.0)
- EPA launched a new tool to provide the public information about pollutants released into local waterways, the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Pollutant Loading Tool

Collaboration and Participation: Examples of Opportunities

- EPA encourages saving water during Fix a Leak Week
- Held public availability session regarding Macon Naval Ordnance Plant Site, Macon, GA
- EPA Region 7 co-hosted their 6th annual Radon Stakeholder's Meeting
- Held public meeting regarding Holcomb Creosote Site, Yadkinville, NC
- Held third public meeting on Floyds Fork Pollution Control Plan
- EPA seeks public input on cleanup plan for American Cyanamid Superfund Site in Bridgewater Township, NJ
- Held public availability sessions concerning actions in areas of North Birmingham
- Announced comment period for injection well permit changes in Wright County, MN

Partnering Across Government and with Industry: Examples of Opportunities

- EPA and Federal partners joined forces to increase awareness of the dangers of poisoning during National Poison Prevention Week, including the release of a YouTube video
- EPA recognized National Radon Action Month and the Federal Radon Action Plan
- Administrator Jackson leads US delegation to Paris for meetings on economic and environmental cooperation
- Georgian Court University (Lakewood, NJ) and EPA work together to increase Green practices, including promoting the use of refillable water bottles at campus water fountains
- L'Oreal and EPA announce research collaboration in San Francisco that may help end animal testing
- Dallas/Fort Worth Airport partners with EPA to save energy and resources
- EPA entered into separate agreements with Georgia Perimeter College, Meharry Medical College, Bennett College, and Benedict College to support campus greening and sustainability
- Lincoln University and EPA announce partnership agreement to promote environmental careers