



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 30, 2004

2004-10

OMB Works to Improve the Accuracy and Transparency of Agency Information

As part of an effort to improve the accuracy and transparency of information disseminated to the public by the Federal Government, The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provided information to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees on whether agencies have been properly responsive to public requests for correction of information pursuant to the Information Quality Act (IQA). In its report, *Information Quality: A Report to Congress*, OMB suggests changes that should be made to the IQA or OMB guidelines to improve the accuracy and transparency of agency science.

“Ensuring the quality of information made available by the Federal Government is a high priority of the Bush Administration,” said Dr. John D. Graham, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. “The Federal Government is moving closer to achieving the goals of the Information Quality Act. We are still in the early phases of implementation, and we expect that the process will evolve as agencies look back and learn from their accomplishments and setbacks.”

The number of substantive correction requests that were received by the agencies in FY03 was relatively small. Based on these figures, the OMB report concludes it is premature to make broad statements about both the impact of the correction request process and the overall agency responsiveness. OMB did recommend some actions agencies could take now to improve the process:

- Increasing transparency by making all correction requests and agency responses publicly available through the creation of agency webpages;
- Increasing timeliness of agency responses; and
- Increasing engagement of agency scientific and technical staff.

The report is based on information from agencies' FY03 Information Quality Reports to OMB and OMB analysis. The FY03 Information Quality Reports from agencies that received correction requests are being released as an Appendix to this report.

The full report will be available at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/infoereg/infopoltech.html#iq.

For additional information, please contact OMB Communications at 202-395-7254.

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