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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

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LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

March 8, 2011

Ms. Barbara Bennett
Chief Financial Officer
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW 4406 ARN
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Bennett:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is conducting oversight of federal agencies' financial management. We are writing to request information relating to the electronic systems in use at your agency to support business and accounting functions; grants and loans management; contracts management; and reporting to government-wide systems such as USASpending.gov and Recovery.gov.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform ("Committee") is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X. To enable the Committee to perform oversight of the federal government's attempts to modernize its financial management systems, please provide the following information, records, and explanations to the Committee staff no later than the close of business on March 22, 2011:

1. Identify and briefly describe each of your agency's business and accounting systems. If separate divisions, bureaus, or offices of your agency use separate systems, identify which divisions, bureaus, or offices use each system.
2. Explain how the business and accounting systems identified in response to Request No. 1 interact with one another.
3. For each system identified in response to Request No. 1, state whether information found in that system is regularly or periodically submitted to any of the government-wide accounting systems maintained by the Department of the Treasury, *e.g.*, GFRS, FACTS I, FACTS II, IFCS, *etc.*, and explain how and at what intervals those submissions occur, including descriptions of both manual and automated processes.

4. For each system identified in response to Request No. 1, state whether information found in that system is regularly or periodically submitted to the Office of Management and Budget's ("OMB") MAX Information System, and explain how and at what intervals those submissions occur, including descriptions of both automated and manual processes.

5. For each system identified in response to Request No. 1, describe recent, current, and planned migration or modernization projects.

6. In addition to your agency's submissions to government-wide accounting systems maintained by the Department of the Treasury and OMB, as described in response to Requests Nos. 3 and 4, does your agency publish any of the same information online for public viewing? If so, describe how and in what format that information is published.

7. Identify and briefly describe each system that your agency uses to manage grants, direct loans, and/or loan guarantees. If separate divisions, bureaus, or offices of your agency use separate systems, identify which divisions, bureaus, or offices use each system.

8. For each system identified in response to Request No. 7, explain how it interacts with any business or accounting system identified in response to Request No. 1.

9. For each system identified in response to Request No. 7, state whether information found in that system is regularly or periodically submitted to the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA), and describe how and at what intervals those submissions occur, including descriptions of both automated and manual processes.

10. For each system identified in response to Request No. 7, state whether information found in that system is regularly or periodically submitted to any of the government-wide grants management and reporting systems, *e.g.*, FAADS, FAADS PLUS, *etc.*, and describe how and at what intervals those submissions occur, including descriptions of both automated and manual processes.

11. For each system identified in response to Request No. 7, describe recent, current, and planned migration or modernization projects.

12. In addition to your agency's submissions to government-wide grants management and reporting systems, described in response to Requests Nos. 9 and 10, does your agency publish any of the same information online for public viewing? If so, describe how and in what format that information is published.

13. Identify and briefly describe each system that your agency uses to manage contracts. If separate divisions, bureaus, or offices of your agency use separate systems, identify which divisions, bureaus, or offices use each system.

14. For each system identified in response to Request No. 13, explain how it interacts with any business or accounting system identified in response to Request No. 1.

15. For each system identified in response to Request No. 13, state whether information found in that system is regularly or periodically submitted to any of the government-wide contract management and reporting systems, *e.g.*, FPDS, FPDS-NG, FAPIIS, *etc.*, and describe how and at what intervals those submissions occur, including descriptions of both automated and manual processes.

16. For each system identified in response to Request No. 13, describe recent, current, and planned migration or modernization projects.

17. In addition to your agency's submissions to government-wide contract management and reporting systems, described in response to Request No. 15, does your agency publish any of the same information online for public viewing? If so, describe how and in what format that information is published.

18. Briefly describe your agency's efforts to comply with OMB's memorandum on the Open Government Directive – Federal Spending Transparency, dated April 6, 2010. In particular, describe whether and how your agency has begun to collect and report sub-award data, as required by the memorandum, and describe how your agency's reports on OMB's data quality metrics, as required by the memorandum, are generated.

19. If your agency interacts directly with USASpending.gov, in addition to submitting information to the systems that feed USASpending.gov, describe the nature, frequency, and purposes of that interaction.

20. Describe the data quality controls and procedures that your agency has implemented for information that is submitted to USASpending.gov, including information submitted directly and information submitted to one of the systems that feeds USASpending.gov.

21. State whether all of your agency's current grants, contracts, and loans are accurately reflected on USASpending.gov, and, if not, estimate the percentage of current grants, contracts, and loans that are not accurately reflected, using both the number of transactions and dollar figures.

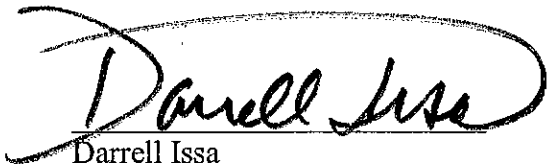
22. State whether your agency incurs any reporting burdens or costs as a result of its obligations under the Federal Financial Assistance Transparency Act ("FFATA") that it does not incur as a result of other reporting obligations, and estimate those burdens and costs in worker-hours and dollars.

23. Identify the individual(s) who serve(s) as Senior Accountable Official(s) ("SAO") over federal spending data quality for your agency, as defined by OMB.

Please note that for purposes of responding to this request, the terms “records,” “communications,” and “referring or relating” should be interpreted consistently with the attached Definitions of Terms.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Tabetta Mueller or Hudson Hollister with the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074.

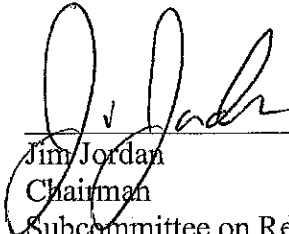
Sincerely,



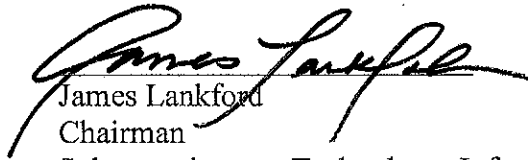
Darrell Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform



Todd R. Platts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government
Organization, Efficiency and
Financial Management



Jim Jordan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs,
Stimulus Oversight and Government
Spending



James Lankford
Chairman
Subcommittee on Technology, Information
Policy, Intergovernmental Relations
and Procurement Reform

cc: Honorable Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member
Committee On Oversight And Government Reform

Attachment

Definition of Terms

1. The term "record" means any written, recorded, or graphic matter of any nature whatsoever, regardless of how recorded, and whether original or copy, including, but not limited to, the following: memoranda, reports, expense reports, books, manuals, instructions, financial reports, working papers, records notes, letters, notices, confirmations, telegrams, receipts, appraisals, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, prospectuses, interoffice and intra office communications, electronic mail (e-mail), contracts, cables, notations of any type of conversation, telephone call, meeting or other communication, bulletins, printed matter, computer printouts, teletypes, invoices, transcripts, diaries, analyses, returns, summaries, minutes, bills, accounts, estimates, projections, comparisons, messages, correspondence, press releases, circulars, financial statements, reviews, opinions, offers, studies and investigations, questionnaires and surveys, and work sheets (and all drafts, preliminary versions, alterations, modifications, revisions, changes, and amendments of any of the foregoing, as well as any attachments or appendices thereto), and graphic or oral records or representations of any kind (including without limitation, photographs, charts, graphs, microfiche, microfilm, videotape, recordings and motion pictures), and electronic, mechanical, and electric records or representations of any kind (including, without limitation, tapes, cassettes, disks, and recordings) and other written, printed, typed, or other graphic or recorded matter of any kind or nature, however produced or reproduced, and whether preserved in writing, film, tape, disk, videotape or otherwise. A record bearing any notation not a part of the original text is to be considered a separate record. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate record within the meaning of this term.
2. The term "communication" means each manner or means of disclosure or exchange of information, regardless of means utilized, whether oral, electronic, by document or otherwise, and whether face-to-face, in a meeting, by telephone, mail, telexes, discussions, releases, personal delivery, or otherwise.
3. The terms "referring or relating," with respect to any given subject, means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, reflects, identifies, states, refers to, deals with or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject.