

# Data Quality

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## NYTimes, 3/21/02

- “The law...requires the government for the first time to set standards for the quality of scientific information and statistics used and disseminated by federal agencies. It would create a system in every government agency under which anyone could point out errors.... If the complaints were borne out, the agency would have to expunge the data from government Web sites and publications.”
- “Agencies must finish drafts of their science quality procedures by May 1...”

# OMB

- Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001
- Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies

## OMB definitions

- **Quality:** encompassing term defined by utility, objectivity, integrity
- **Utility:** “usefulness” to “intended users”
- **Objectivity:** “accurate, clear, complete, and unbiased”
- **Integrity:** “protection of information from unauthorized access or revision”

# Guidelines for each agency

1. Establish basic standard of quality, appropriate to different categories of information disseminated
2. Review process for quality prior to dissemination
3. Establish administrative mechanisms by which affected persons can seek and obtain where appropriate timely corrections.
4. Only appropriate for dissemination on or after Oct. 1, 2002

# Agency reporting

1. Must designate a CIO responsible for this
2. Must respond appropriately to complaint
3. By April 1, 2002, each agency must report draft guidelines to OMB
4. Must publish draft in Federal Register
5. By July 1, 2002 must respond to comments and submit to OMB for review
6. Annually, must report (quantitative and qualitative) on number and nature of complaints

# Are there issues for DOE/ASC?

- Is there data disseminated by DOE/ASC which falls under this?
- What are the criteria set forth for evaluation of quality prior to dissemination?
- What will the impact be on staff at the DOE/ASC in order deal with this preliminary review and what will the impact of that be on the quality of the data?
- What will be the impact of reporting? (To what extent will it improve quality of data by encouraging pre-review and to what extent will it suppress publication in order to avoid feedback?)
- To what extent are the definitions achievable?