Blog Comments on EPA's Open Government Plan as of 06/24/2010

Category	Comment	Summary
Communication & Outreach	Under transaparency it says " In 1983, Administrator Ruckelshaus promised that EPA would operate "in a fishbowl"…" Don't we mean "…NOT operate in a fishbowl?"	Confusion on the definition of a fishbowl.
Communication & Outreach	We understand the fishbowl analogy, but have to mention the DATE again; that was long before the Obama regime transparency statement. Also, caution must be exercised regarding potential misuse of the volumes of data being released; "We the People" are not the only ones accessing this information. Without seeming to be an alarmist, my Country's health and environment should not be threatend by data we collect and share. I'm certain someone has thought of this already, but…	Commenting on how the date of the fishbowl analogy was long before the Obama regime transparency plan. Concerned about the potential misuse of data being released.
Transparency	It is sad that the EPA has to describe how they will be open and transparent in a 53 page document when they should be open and transparent without any description at all. After all, our founders set up the entire government in less than 14 pages.	Complaint about draft writing too much about being transparent, rather than being transparent.
Communication & Outreach	While I'm all for less government secrecy, one must remind that others beyond the citizenry will likewise have access to this information, for whatever pplication they so choose. I'll echo Chris' statement regarding lengthy tomes that say what will be done, versus DOING what we say… and stop talking / writing about it.	Concern of potential misuse of data published. Feels there is excessive writing about transparency, rather than just being transparent.
Transparency	I posted this in another one of your forms, but wanted to post it here as well. I found this form after making my initial post. Thanks. It is sad that the EPA has to describe how they will be open and transparent in a 53 page document when they should be open and transparent without any description at all. After all, our founders set up the entire government in less than 14 pages.	There is too much writing on transparency.
Communication & Outreach	I think we need to create a facebook and put information on there – Facebook is hot right now and why not put information on there for the public to view. A FOIA facebook	Recommendation for public communication through Facebook.
Public Involvement	An excellent choice, I must say; allowing the people to be part of the solution means fewer of them are part of the problem – PLUS the EPA gets the benefit of tens of thousands of mental resources otherwise unavailable to them. Cudos to the decision-makers that put EPA on this path; well done!	Appreciation of outreach to public involvement-good outlet to more resources!

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Appreciation	Dear Mrs. Jackson, dear Mrs. Linda, good morning & GOOD HEALTH to you forever:) But we have a problem, I would say to YOU remembering the crew of mythical Apollo 13 Mission. The problem for me is: if we want save the Blue Planet, how can we save also the Economy of the great Industries? I think: we must build the cars, (I LOVE the cars!!!) But the cars, for example, can destroy our Earth. And so, all the industries make great (or bad) products. In Italy it's says: "bisogna salvare capra e cavoli". Sob! We must save the industries of U.S. Grat Economy, but at same time we MUST save the Planet Earth. I have no answer, sob. But I believe in USA of Best Brains!!! And with this hope, I want leave here my best Thanks & my good wishes for Your incredible HARD WORK! With my Love & my Gratitude:)	Wishes Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Linda good health. How do we save the economy and useful industries while still saving the environment? Does not have a solution but believes in the USA and appreciates all the hard work.
Appreciation	I am glad i will be able to be more informed thank you	Glad to be more informed.
Data/Information	A note on the details of section III-A:What about transparency in the NPL priorities ranking? Also, indicating the policies of reimbursement for cleanup actions by the responsible parties, and whether or not we as taxpayers are paying for remediation actions, rather than the polluters (a practice more and more common since President Bush) Also, tell us what specifically about our exposures aren't "under control" and specific areas of concern that aren't buried in 150 page pdfs, some sort of hazard summary, if a site's construction is complete, why aren't human exposures limited? I can understand the confusion that most people have understanding the nature of things like the plume spread of groundwater migration, and the limited funding that the superfund program is receiving these days, but this information should be explained, and a proposed timeline should be instated in order for community members to understand why there are delays between OU causes and effects. Also, you should stop allowing corporations to manage their own sites. This is the largest conflict of interest I can imagine.Thank you, James Roth	Note on Section III part A. What about transparency in the NPL priorities ranking? Would like to be informed about the reimbursement policies for cleanup actions by the responsible parties (taxpayer money, or the specific polluters). Explain which specific "exposures" aren't under control. Information on the plume spread of ground water mitigation and the limited funding of the superfund program should be explained more thoroughly. A timeline should be used to explain why there are delays between OU causes and effects. Request for EPA to stop allowing corporations to manage their own sites.
Policy	Lest anyone think this effort is unnecessary, hear our story: Communicating with the EPA Region 1 office has been like pulling teeth. We actually have to invoke the Freedom of Information Act to get benign documents that should be posted on the Web. When Region 1 refused to RFP funds for environmental education or require accountability on the part of those who received those funds in New Bedford, Mass.—tasks that are part of EPA's administration of these funds—they first tried to ignore us, then stonewall us, and now they are hiring consultants to pretend to listen to us. They even expressed anger when we finally called on the Inspector General twice. All because we asked for the funds to be used for exactly for the purpose for which they were mandated. It's been surreal.	Complaint about using FOIA for documents that should be posted on the web. Concern about the EPA's refusal to fund environmental education, going against their policy of how funds will be used.

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Policy	We are excited to read about EPA's open government plans although we are disappointed that our recommendation about open communications policies (which was the top vote-getter on ideascale) was not included. Allowing EPA experts to speak freely is a crucial component creating a more open agency culture and giving the public full access to the wealth of resources provided by the agency. Transparency is more than just datasets. (For more information see http://www.ucsusa.org/mediapolicies.) Going forward, it would be valuable for EPA to provide feedback on the ideas submitted via ideascale. For example, it would be useful to know which citizen suggestions are still under active consideration for future iterations of the Open Government Plan, and which are not being considered and why. While it seems likely that not all citizen suggestions can be implemented immediately with current resources, if EPA expects the public to continue to participate in this process, it must explain why certain ideas were included and why others were disregarded. Timothy Donaghy, Scientific Integrity Analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists	Request for open communication policies to be strengthened (allowing EPA experts to speak freely). Request for responses on the ideas submitted on IdeaScale. For the public to continue participating they need to know why ideas are included on plans and why some are not.
Collaboration	I'm excited to read the open government plan. I plan to get the movement started by replacing rules and regulations with transformations and innovations. I love the open government plan.	Excited to read the plan. Recommendation to replace rules and regulations with transformations and innovations.
EPA Website	Can you please add bookmarks to the PDF version of the plan and set it to open to bookmarks? I think it would be easier to use as an online reference that way. Maybe quickly find an item someone mentioned etc.	Request for bookmarks to be added to the PDF version of the plan.
Specific Environmental Issue	It appears to be a major step in the right direction. Communications does seem to be a major problem as at a major site in Nashua I was told they didn't find much. They was a lie. In the years since there has been no monitoring of the site and no inspection even the mayor and EPA has been told that in a large area asbestos was less than a foot below ground level with a few areas exposed. An elementary school occupies the and I live next to the school on Shady Lane. Issues such as this must be addressed. I will wait to see how things work out.	Plan is going in the right direction. There is a site in Nashua where asbestos were less than a foot below ground level. He waits to see how issues will be addressed.