

Via e-mail:

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Karen Evans  
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Ms. Evans:

As required in OMB memorandum dated September 2, 2008, subject "FY 2008 E-Government Act Reporting Instructions," attached is the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's FY 2008 Annual E-Government Act Report.

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Daniel F. Lisewski at [Lisewskid@sec.gov](mailto:Lisewskid@sec.gov) , or at (202) 551-8138.

Sincerely,

/original signed by/

Lewis W. Walker  
Chief Information Officer (Acting)  
Office of Information Technology  
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Attachment:

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission FY 2008 E-Government Act Report

**FY 2008 E-Government Act Report for the  
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission**

**Section 1 – Implementation of Electronic Government Initiatives**

***Interactive Data Electronic Application (IDEA)***

The SEC supports the goals of the E-Government Act of 2002 by using technology to enhance the access to and delivery of government information and services to citizens, businesses, and other federal agencies. One SEC initiative that underscores the SEC's commitment to the fundamental goals of the E-Government Act is the Interactive Data Electronic Application (IDEA) initiative. IDEA is an extension of the SEC's XBRL Interactive Data Initiative and voluntary filer program, started in 2005.

***A. How the Initiative is Transforming Agency Operations.***

The SEC's Interactive Data Electronic Application (IDEA) initiative is transforming the SEC's operations on several fronts. For example, the initiative will increase access to information in the financial marketplace by transforming the manner in which individual investors, financial intermediaries, analysts, the financial media, and others can access, use, and understand the wealth of financial disclosure information filed with the SEC. By providing a fast and easy way to extract, analyze, and compare financial information, the initiative has the potential to create a much better informed investor base. In addition, analysts and the financial media will benefit through more efficient search and more enhanced comparison capabilities.

Also, companies preparing financial reports in XBRL will benefit from being able to communicate their financial results more effectively, and at a reduced cost. Regulators and the SEC will benefit from the ability to process information far more comprehensively, quickly, and accurately. We expect that our internal disclosure reviews for regulatory and enforcement purposes also will become more efficient and effective over time.

Additional information on how IDEA is transforming internal operations and enhancing the access to and delivery of financial reporting and disclosure information and services to the public are at the following links:

[Interactive Data Electronic Applications \(IDEA\)](#)

[21st Century Disclosure Initiative](#)

***B. Maintaining a Dialogue with Interested Parties to Find Innovative Ways to Use Information Technology for the E-Government Initiative.***

The SEC maintains continuous dialogue with the national and international community on IDEA (previously the XBRL Interactive Data Initiative). The links

below exemplify how the SEC maintains a dialogue with interested parties and fosters innovative ways to use technology, as part of the IDEA E-Government Initiative:

[Interactive Data and XBRL Meetings](#)

[XBRL and Interactive Data Podcasts](#)

[21st Century Disclosure Roundtable](#)

***C. Collaborating with External Partners on the Initiative.***

The SEC uses a variety of forums and other methods as illustrated above, to collaborate and communicate with its public partners who are involved in the IDEA Initiative. For example, the SEC conducts interactive data roundtables comprised of investors, issuers, auditors, analysts, technology professionals, regulators, and others. The roundtables serve as a forum to discuss interactive data initiatives that can benefit investors. The roundtables also provide the SEC the opportunity to learn from companies, investors, and other users of financial information how the SEC can improve its disclosure program. In addition, the SEC:

- Makes routine public statements and speeches regarding the initiative and its significance to the financial community.
- Issues routine press releases regarding the initiative.
- Sponsors a voluntary interactive data test group.

Additional information and more details on how the SEC collaborates with external partners on the initiative are at [Spotlight on XBRL and Interactive Data](#).

***D. Improving Program Performance in Achieving Agency Objectives and Strategic Goals.***

An essential IT strategic objective of the SEC is to improve the effectiveness of agency programs and processes. IDEA supports Initiative 1C - Electronic Disclosure. Specific goals of the strategic objective are to:

- Improve the way the SEC collects information from registrants, internally processes and reviews the information, and enables the public to use the information for investment and educational purposes.
- Improve the usability of the information filed with the SEC (for example, by converting more of it to interactive data formats).
- Improve the ability for internal and external users to access and analyze the data.

IDEA will make disclosures more useful to investors, and will enable the public to quickly find and sort through vast amounts of SEC-mandated disclosure information and data, which is not possible with today's technology. In addition, companies participating in our XBRL pilot program have told us that the substantial benefits of implementing XBRL will exceed the minimal costs to implement it. In addition to providing information that is far more useful to investors, the SEC believes that the use of interactive data will make companies' internal processes more efficient, saving investors' dollars for the costs of registration and compliance reporting to the SEC. In turn, the use of interactive data will make the SEC's internal disclosure reviews more effective and productive over time.

***E. Achieving Cost Savings and Avoidances by Reducing or Eliminating IT Investments***

IDEA is intended, in part, to stimulate software development for the viewing and analysis of tagged data. The SEC has released on its public website several free software prototypes and the related source code to encourage the marketplace to create additional software with more extensive features.

The SEC recognizes that by not competing with the private market and private software developers, it will transfer the costs for developing the technology to the commercial sector, thereby reducing the need for the SEC to unnecessarily invest in developing software for the initiative over the long term.

In addition, it is widely recognized that the XBRL Interactive Data Initiative, the predecessor to IDEA, has served as a driver to help modernize the government's processes for compliance reporting, which in turn will make the process for registration and compliance reporting to the SEC more efficient, less costly to investors' and taxpayers. The SEC also expects that the initiative will generate internal efficiencies and make the SEC's disclosure and compliance reviews more effective and productive.

***F. Availability of SEC Information and Services for all Citizens.***

The SEC is committed to providing Agency information and services to all citizens, including those without access to the Internet. Members of the public can obtain copies of filings by visiting the SEC Public Reference Room in person, or by submitting a request in writing via postal mail, fax, or e-mail to the Office of Investor Education and Advocacy. The SEC is also equipped with a TTY machine to receive inquiries from the hearing impaired. In addition, the SEC provides information to the disabled by interactive web pod casts and RSS Feeds, at the following links, [Interactive Data Pod Casts](#), and [Live and Archived Captioned Webcasts](#) so that information about these important SEC initiatives is available in many different formats.

***G. Capital Planning and Investment Control Procedures.***

The SEC has an established Capital Planning and Investment Control (CPIC) process, which requires that all IT investments follow a defined select, control and evaluate model as prescribed by the Clinger-Cohen Act and OMB Circular A-130. As with all SEC IT investments, the IDEA Initiative is subject to the policies and procedures required by the SEC's IT investment select, control, and evaluate CPIC model.

#### ***H. Established Business Processes for Identifying Initiatives***

The SEC leverages information and the insights gained via the vast number of forums and internal business processes discussed in Section 1 A thru Section 1 G above, to further identify opportunities for SEC-specific E-Government initiatives.

### **Section 2 – Agency Information Management Activities**

#### ***A. Information Resources Management (IRM) Strategic Plan***

Pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-06-02, "Improving Public Access to and Dissemination of Government Information and Using the Federal Enterprise Architecture Data Reference Model," the SEC's IT Strategic Plan is accessible from the SEC's website: <http://www.sec.gov/about/secitstratplan2007-12.pdf>

#### ***B. Public Access to Electronic Information***

To accomplish the SEC's mission of protecting investors, maintaining fair, honest, and efficient markets, and facilitating capital formation, the SEC provides a wide variety of electronic information to members of the public. Beginning in the 1980s, the Commission's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system (EDGAR) made corporate and financial information available to investors, the financial community, and other interested parties in a matter of minutes after the information was filed. Since that time, the Commission has proactively disseminated useful and timely information to the public through the SEC website and through other mechanisms. As mentioned above, the SEC is working to make this information even more useful to investors through the use of interactive data technology.

Since the September 2004 requirement for identifying, prioritizing, and scheduling the publication of information to the public via the Internet, the SEC has continued to publish an inventory of Commission information on the SEC's website, including the priorities and schedules for making the information available and accessible.

#### **Determining the availability of SEC information**

The SEC prioritizes information and makes it available based upon how time-sensitive it is. The SEC uses the following criteria to determine how quickly to post information to the SEC website:

- Urgent and time-sensitive information is **Priority 1** and is typically posted within minutes of receipt;
- Time-sensitive information is **Priority 2** and is typically posted within an hour of receipt;
- Information frequently requested by the public is **Priority 3** and typically is posted the same day it is received;
- Other information that may be useful is **Priority 4** and typically is posted within 24 hours of receipt.

To ensure that users of the site do not overlook newly posted material, a “What’s New” page on the SEC website highlights new information. The SEC updates the page daily. Additionally, the SEC has developed RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds on the public website (<http://www.sec.gov/info/edgar/ednews/xbrlrss.htm>) for several of the most popular and frequent information types, including EDGAR Filings, Press Releases, Administrative Proceedings, Litigation Releases, and News Digests. RSS is a simple system based on XML (eXtensible Markup Language) that notifies and delivers desired information to users. With RSS, users can immediately get updates to information that the SEC makes public.

### **Priorities and schedules for information availability**

The table below includes categories of information representative of the SEC’s website content, and the publication priorities assigned to the categories. This information is available to the public on the SEC’s website:

<http://www.sec.gov/about/inventory.shtml>.

Type of Document	Priority Level
News & Public Statements	
News Digest	1
Press Releases	1
Speeches and Public Statements	3
Congressional Testimony	3
Webcasts	1
Special Studies	4
SEC Strategic Plan	1
SEC Conference Materials	4
Regulatory and Rulemaking Matters	
Proposed Rules	2
Final Rules	2
Concept Releases	2
Interpretive Releases	2
Policy Statements	2
PCAOB Rulemaking	2
Commission Orders, Notices, and Information	2
Self-Regulatory Organization Rulemaking	3
Public Comment Letters	3
Investment Advisers Act Notices and Orders	3
Investment Company Act Notices and Orders	3

## Attachment

Type of Document	Priority Level
Investment Company Act Deregistration Notices and Orders	3
Exchange Act Exemptive Applications	4
Exemptive Orders	4
Public Petitions for Rulemaking	4
SEC Rules of Practice	4
Staff Interpretations	
Staff Accounting Bulletins	3
Staff Legal Bulletins	3
Staff No Action, Interpretive and Exemptive Letters	3
Frequently Asked Questions and Staff Guidance	4
Litigation	
Litigation Releases - Federal Court Actions	2
Administrative Proceedings - Notices & Settlements	2
Administrative Law Judge Initial Decisions & Orders	2
Reports of Investigations	2
Commission Opinions & Orders	2
Trading Suspensions	1
Appellate Briefs	3
Amicus Briefs	3
Disgorgement Plans	3
EDGAR	
Filings	1
EDGAR News	2
EDGAR Filer Manual	2
EDGAR Filer Guidance	2
Investor Information	
Questions: Get Fast Answers	2
Online Publications	2
SEC en Español	2
Mutual Fund Fee Calculators	2
Check Out Brokers and Advisors	2
File a Tip or Complaint	2
Investors Claims Funds	2
Investor Education Links	2
Additional Matters	
Job Listings	4
Government Performance and Results Act Reports	4
Annual FAIR Act Inventories	4
FOIA Program	4
Privacy Policy	4
No FEAR Act	4
No FEAR Act EEO Data	4
Whistleblower Protection Act Information	4
Antidiscrimination Law Information	4
Complaints of Employment Discrimination	4
Data Quality Guidelines	4

Type of Document	Priority Level
Organizational Structure	4
SEC Mission and Statutory Authority	4
SEC Annual Reports	4
FAIR Act Inventory	4
Buy American Act Report	4
Budget Report	4
E-Government Act Implementation Updates	4
Small Business Information	4
Site Map	4

**C. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**

In response to the requirements of Executive Order 13392, “Improving Agency Disclosure of Information,” the SEC appointed a Chief FOIA Officer, established a FOIA Public Service Center, and designated FOIA Public Liaisons.

- The Commission’s primary FOIA website is located at <http://www.sec.gov/foia.shtml>. Links to all of our FOIA information can be found there. A link to this important information is also conveniently located on the home page of the [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) site.
- The public can quickly find information regarding how to make a FOIA request at <http://www.sec.gov/foia/howfo2.htm>.
- Frequently requested FOIA documents can be found at <http://www.sec.gov/foia/foiadocs.htm>.

**D. Federally Funded Research and Development (R&D) Activities.**

The SEC does not fund Federal research and development (R&D) activities.

**E. Formal agency agreements with external entities to improve access to and dissemination of information to the public.**

In addition to the SEC’s public website [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), the SEC continues to substantially enhance the public and private sector’s access to and use of Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval (EDGAR) data using multiple external sources, entities and commercial search engines. The SEC’s privatization of the EDGAR Public Dissemination Service (PDS) data feed continues to facilitate wide availability of EDGAR data to the public from numerous non-governmental entities and subscribers, which include EDGAR Online; Yahoo!; and Thomson Financial, to name a few. Presently, hundreds of thousands of citizens obtain data derived from filings to the EDGAR system on a regular and timely basis from private sector information providers who receive primary or secondary access to the SEC’s EDGAR data feed. The following link <http://www.sec.gov/info/edgar/ednews/dissemin.htm> provides additional information on the SEC’s privatized PDS feed, and the various subscribers who access the feed.

In addition, the SEC is taking other steps to ensure that information is widely disseminated to investors and the public. For example:

- **Interactive Financial Report Viewer:** The SEC is providing a new generation of “interactive” investor tools available through the SEC’s website, <http://www.sec.gov/spotlight/xbrl/xbrlwebapp.htm>. By using the Interactive Financial Report Viewer, investors can view and analyze companies’ financials filed in EDGAR using XBRL. The software tools are available to the public free of charge.
- **Really Simple Syndication (RSS) Feeds:** [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) contains several RSS feeds that allow the public to obtain information about SEC releases as soon as they are posted. The RSS feeds, made available to the public through aggregators, allow individuals to subscribe to the specific RSS feeds of interest to them.
- **Your Money Podcast:** The SEC has developed an audio podcast to help individual investors achieve their savings and retirement goals using iTunes; Yahoo! Podcasts; and other websites and software.

**F. *Priorities and schedules for information availability***

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 207(e) of the E-Government Act of 2002, “Public Access to Electronic Information,” the SEC continues to manage records consistent with the requirements of OMB Circular A-130 and guidance from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

During FY 2008, the SEC archivist continues to lead the Commission’s effort to comply with the detailed requirements of NARA Bulletin 2006-02, “NARA Guidance for Implementing Section 207(e) of the E-Government Act of 2002.” The SEC’s records management plan and approach focus on electronic records management.

Specifically, the Commission’s records management program staff are systematically revising the Commission’s records schedule and conducting a comprehensive inventory of all records, regardless of media, to ensure that the SEC continues to effectively identify and transfer all electronic records requiring permanent retention to NARA, as required by, and appropriate for the SEC.