



ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

November 15, 2011

Richard Belzer
President
Regulatory Checkbook
P.O. Box 319
Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Dear Dr. Belzer:

Thank you for your letter of November 9, 2011, regarding the procedures used by the Administrative Conference (ACUS) to seek and obtain public comment. I am keenly aware of this Administration's goals of transparency and increased public participation and supportive of the fact that our work at ACUS requires collaboration, consultation and openness.

When ACUS resumed full operations in August 2010, after a 15-year hiatus, we made the decision to voluntarily subject our subcommittee meetings to procedures similar to those required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act for public meetings and record availability. In our first full year of operation, we have balanced the need to advance our mission with maintenance of transparency and public involvement. Necessarily, we need to schedule multiple subcommittee meetings for each project prior to a vote at the semi-annual plenary meeting. This makes for an accelerated schedule, but unlike most rulemaking proceedings, there are multiple opportunities for public comment during the committee process in addition to official calls for comment appearing in the *Federal Register*.

Your comments prompted us to reevaluate when certain documents are posted. We will now endeavor to post all public comments on our website when they are received rather than when the comment period closes. This will give the public an opportunity to view the comments in as timely a manner as possible. We will continue our efforts to post consultant reports, agendas, etc. online consistent with our published policies.

I appreciate your interest in improving the public comment procedures at ACUS. In addition, thank you for your input at Monday's meeting from which our consultants and staff benefitted.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Verkuil
Chairman