

A Regulatory Docket With A Life

A regulatory docket “documents an agency’s efforts to propose, amend, repeal or promulgate a rule or regulation “. Often these dockets are filled with hundreds of studies and comments on a proposed rule. Dockets are priceless; they contain the history of the birth, life and sometimes death of the rules that govern our daily lives.

Nonetheless under current operating procedures dockets are closed at the end of a public comment period. We agree that at some point in time the government must make a decision and it cannot be responsible for maintaining and giving due consideration to the changing components of a docket.

Although dockets are priceless, they need not be lifeless!

Interested stakeholders can augment a federally sponsored docket at the termination of the Notice and Comment period. CRE has set the path for such an endeavor by establishing Interactive Public Dockets. Wikipedia states:

The Interactive Public Docket (IPD) is an eRulemaking tool created and managed by non governmental organizations that seek to provide the public with the capability to 1) publicly post data and other materials pertaining to federal proceedings on a continuous basis, including after the close of the Administrative Procedure Act comment period and 2) post comments on already submitted materials.

We invite stakeholders who regularly visit the invaluable Regulations.gov to visit an Interactive Docket for the FDA OTC Hearing Aid Rulemaking at <https://thecre.com/forum19/>