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via fax: 202/395-5167 Confirmation via U.S. Mail

Re: Proposed Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility and Integrity of Information Disseminated By Federal Agencies (66 FR 34489)

Dear Ms. Dickson

I or re u c

In particular, we are very distressed that the proposed guidelines will affect the research process. Scientific information is already subject to peer review requirements. We believe these adequately address any concerns regarding the quality of the information and that independent verification by affected persons only serves to delay the dissemination of new information, increases costs due to verification (with funds that could otherwise be used for further research), and jeopardizes the confidentiality of information gathered in research. This may result in a decrease in those willing to participate in research studies. These new requirements may also result in fewer scientists being willing to participate in programs with burdensome requirements.