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**Remarks as prepared for delivery by Matt Madia, Federal Regulatory Policy Analyst, OMB Watch,  
before the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, November 4, 2010.**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Matt Madia, and I am a regulatory policy analyst with OMB Watch, a nonprofit organization dedicated to transparency, government accountability, and citizen participation.

OMB Watch has supported many of the Obama administration's efforts to improve accountability, transparency, and the role of science and technology in government decisionmaking, and we have applauded the administration's success in hewing to many of its own, self-imposed.

However, today I would like to talk about a glaring exception – President Obama's March 2009 memo on scientific integrity which asks the Office of Science and Technology Policy for recommendations that will serve as the basis for new government-wide scientific integrity policies. The memo set a deadline of 120 days for the recommendations, but OSTP has now missed that deadline by well over a year.

Ensuring the integrity of science is one of the best ways to ensure that regulation serves the public's interests. From our perspective, scientific advice and evidence often serve as the foundation for regulatory decisionmaking. Often this evidence matters most to issues of public protection like environmental preservation, worker safety and health, and consumer safeguards.

It is clear that new guidelines are still necessary. Just last month, a report by the president's commission on the BP oil spill accuses the White House Office of Management and Budget of delaying the release of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration oil spill estimate models.

That controversy erupted at least in part because it remains unclear what the White House's standards for scientific integrity are, and because the White House has not done enough to advance disclosure as a safeguard against scientific abuse – for example, by disclosing OMB comments on agency materials.

And so today I ask that the council take up the cause of the delayed recommendations and urge President Obama to finalize new government-wide guidance for scientific integrity as quickly as possible. I thank you for your time.