



eRulemaking

Regulations.gov

Overview of the Latest Features and Functionality

The Status of Social Media in Government
September 17, 2013

Agenda

- ◆ **Overview of eRulemaking Program**
- ◆ **Current Regulations.gov Features and Functionality**
- ◆ **Use of Social Media to promote Regulations.gov**

Overview of the eRulemaking Program and Regulations.gov

- ◆ **eRulemaking Vision:** Citizens can easily access and participate in a high quality, efficient, and open rulemaking process
- ◆ **Who Uses Regulations.gov?**
 - Wide range of users including general public, federal government employees, academics, regulated industry, and lobbyists

The screenshot shows the homepage of Regulations.gov. At the top, the logo "regulations.gov" is displayed with the tagline "Your Voice in Federal Decision-Making". Navigation links for Home, Help, Resources, and Feedback and Questions are visible. A search bar is prominently featured with a "Search" button and a link to "Advanced Search".

The main content area is titled "Participate Today!" and includes a call to action: "Submit your comments on proposed regulations and related documents published by the U.S. Federal government. You can also use this site to search and review original regulatory documents as well as comments submitted by others. Help improve Federal regulations by **submitting your comments**."

Below this is a search box with the placeholder text "SEARCH for: Rules, Comments, Adjudications or Supporting Documents:" and a "Search" button. To the right, a sidebar titled "Are you new to the site?" offers links for "What can I find on this site?", "How do I find a rule?", "How do I submit a comment?", "How do I find my comment?", and "Do my comments make a difference?".

The "What's Trending" section lists several items with their closing dates: "Menthol in Cigarettes, Tobacco Products: Request for Comments" (closing Sep 23, 2013), "Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: Members of Congress and Congressional Staff" (closing Sep 09, 2013), "Petition to Amend Animal Welfare Act Regulations: Prohibit Public Contact with Big Cats, Bears, and Nonhuman Primates" (closing Oct 04, 2013), "Draft Guidance for Industry: Questions and Answers Regarding the Final Rule, Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis in..." (closing Sep 23, 2013), and "Petition for Rulemaking to Eliminate Accessible Cords on Window Covering Products" (closing Sep 13, 2013).

The "Comments Due Soon" section shows counts for various timeframes: Today (37), Next 3 Days (80), Next 7 Days (185), Next 15 Days (425), Next 30 Days (803), and Next 90 Days (1,159). The "Newly Posted" section shows counts for Today (105), Last 3 Days (183), Last 7 Days (482), Last 15 Days (1,000), Last 30 Days (2,109), and Last 90 Days (6,355).

The footer contains navigation links for Home, About Us, Resources, Help, and Connect With. The "Connect With" section includes social media icons for RSS, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, along with a "Feedback and Questions" link and a list of links for Privacy Notice, User Notice, and Accessibility Statement. The footer also includes "Partner Sites" and a "Participate Today!" call to action.

Regulations.gov – Docket Folder Summary

◆ Docket Folder (redesigned September 2012):

- Displays essential metadata
- Expandable Unified Agenda interface
- Organizes newest documents in 3 sections
- Direct link to Comment form
- Participation panel shows graphic of action's stage in rulemaking lifecycle to simplify content
- Displays agency's contact information
- Increased ease of access to regulatory content with Social Media integration to share docket link

The screenshot shows the Regulations.gov interface for a docket folder. The main content is organized into three sections: Primary Documents, Supporting Documents, and Comments. A red box highlights the 'UA and Regulatory Plan Information' section, which includes metadata such as 'Publication Period: Spring 2013', 'Agenda Stage of Rulemaking: Final Rule', and 'Legal Authorities: 49 USC 106(g), 49 USC 40113, 49 USC 44701'. A red arrow points to the 'Social Media Integration' link. A red circle highlights the 'Final Rule' link in the 'Regulatory Timeline' sidebar, which also shows 'Pre Rule' and 'Proposed Rule' stages. The page footer includes navigation links like 'Home', 'About Us', 'Resources', and 'Help', along with social media icons and a 'Participate Today!' button.

Regulations.gov – Docket Browser

◆ Docket Browser (redesigned September 2012):

- Explore and custom filter docket's contents
- Export all or selected document types
- Docket contents can be exported as a .csv file download
- Subscribe to desired docket's using E-mail Alerts

The screenshot displays the Regulations.gov Docket Browser interface. On the left, there are search filters for Document Type, Posted, and Comments Due. The main content area shows a list of documents with columns for Document Type, Title, Posted date, and Comment Period. An 'Export Docket Folder' dialog box is open, explaining that the export will be a .csv file and providing a 'NOTE' about the data included. A red arrow points to the 'Export' button in the dialog. On the right, a 'Sign Up for E-mail Alerts' dialog box is shown, with a 'Step 1' label and a 'Sign up for E-mail Alerts' button. A 'Step 2' label is also present near the 'Supporting Documents' section.

*Search enhancements (UA filters in Docket Browser and Search Results) coming in future releases

Regulations.gov – Document Details

◆ Document Details (redesigned March 2013)

- Direct link to Docket Folder
- Metadata observed in plain writing to improve access to rulemaking content
- Improved text legibility
- Increased metadata alignment with OFR
- Displays Comment Now button prominently with due date
- Integrated Social Media tools to offer ease of public participation
- Additional document metadata available via 'Show More' link
- 'Recent Documents' enables linking of relevant materials

The screenshot shows the 'Document Details' page for a proposed rule titled 'Removing the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Maintaining Protections for the Mexican Wolf (Canis lupus baileyi) by Listing It as Endangered'. The page is annotated with several red boxes and arrows highlighting key features:

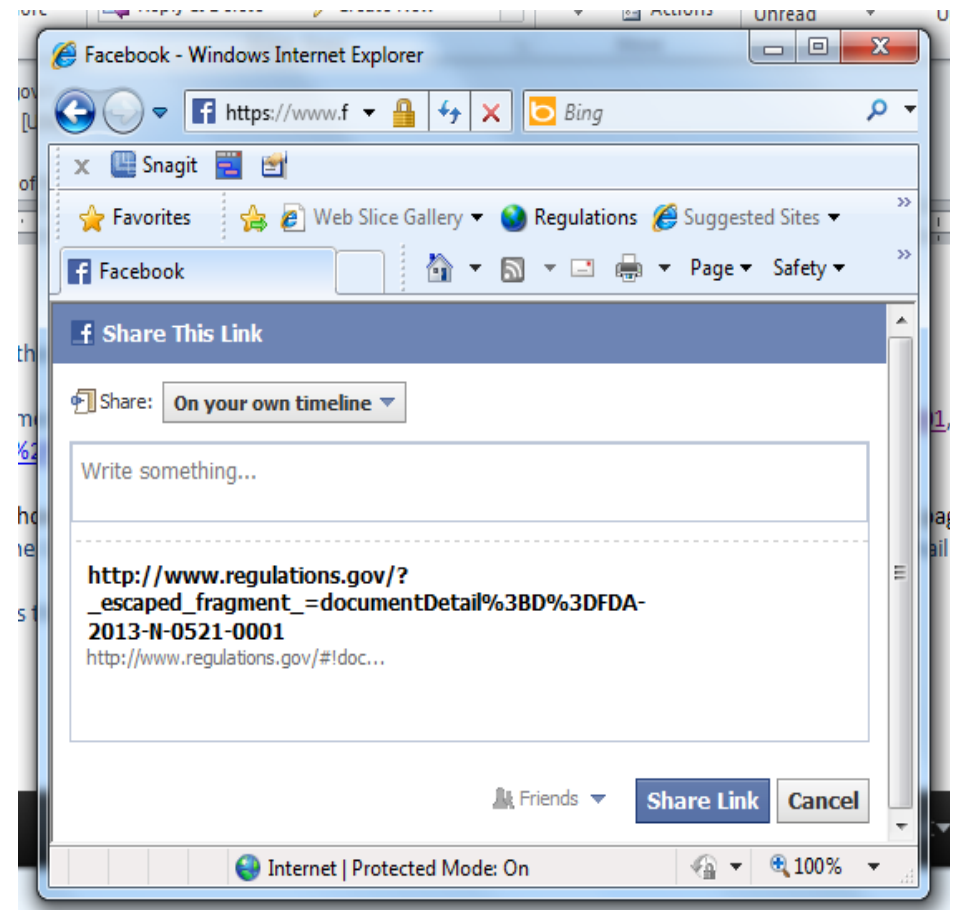
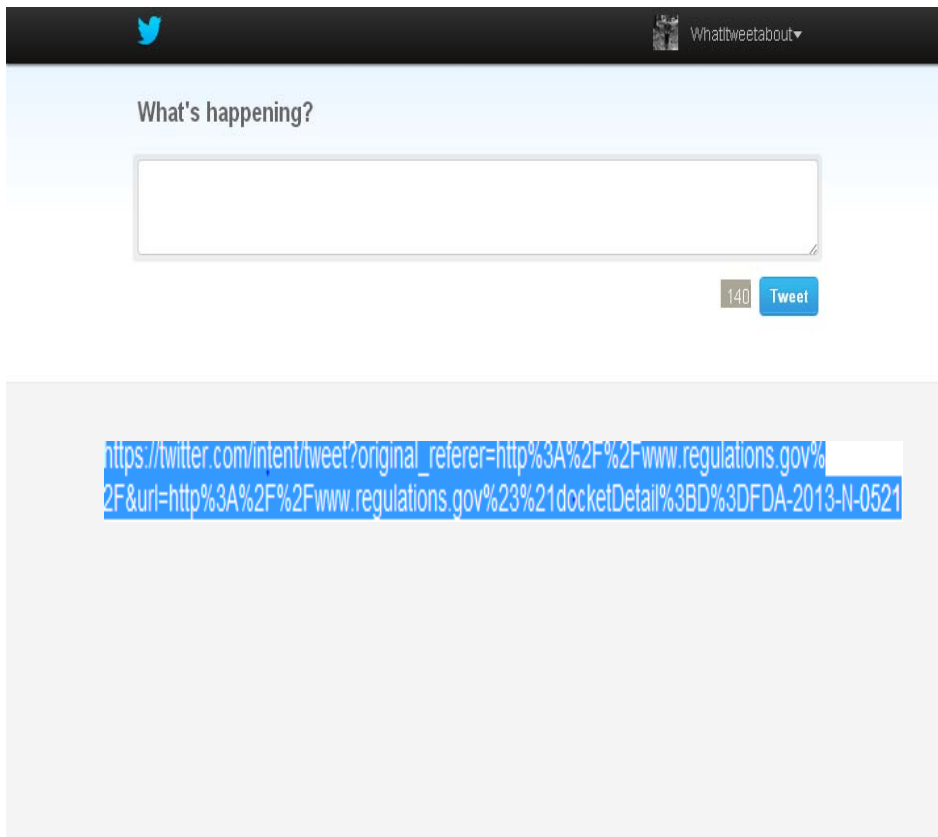
- Comment Now:** A prominent button in the top right corner, indicating the public comment period.
- Plain Writing makes metadata more accessible:** An annotation pointing to the 'Summary' section, which provides a clear overview of the rule's purpose.
- Social Media Integration:** An annotation pointing to social media sharing icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email) located near the 'Comment Now' button.
- More Document Details:** A box highlighting the 'Docket ID', 'Document Type', 'Received Date', 'Start-End Page', 'Comment Start Date', 'Comment Due Date', and 'Page Count'.
- Docket Information:** A box highlighting the 'Date Posted', 'PW', '1018-AV00', 'CPL', '40 CFR Part 17', 'Federal Register Number', and 'Show More Details' link.
- Comments:** A section showing '606 Comments Received' and a 'Comment Now' button.
- Docket Information:** A box highlighting the 'Docket ID' and 'Docket Information' link.



Regulations.gov – Social Media Tools

◆ Social Media integration

- Docket Folder and Document Details pages enable users to share links and messages on desired regulations
- Social media sharing of Regulations.gov links aim to broaden public participation



Regulations.gov – Comment Form

◆ Comment Form (redesigned July 2013):

- User centered design follows Ecommerce sites' best practices
- Each agency displays different comment form fields. The form was standardized to include the following: First Name, Last Name, Zip/ Postal Code, and Email Address
- Provides tool tips for comment form fields
- Groups common fields for ease of navigation
- Users submit comments in 3 short steps: Your Information, Your Preview, and Your Receipt.

* Exploring second phase of the form redesign to integrate Social Media enabling sharing of receipt (copy of submitted comment)

Submit a Comment

[View Docket Folder](#) | [Alternate Ways to Comment](#)

You are commenting on a Notice: [Plants for Planting Whose Importation is Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis: Data Sheets for Taxa of Plants for Planting That are Quarantine Pests or Hosts of Quarantine Pests \(Document ID APHIS-2012-0076-0010\)](#)

* Required fields Fields that will be viewable on Regulations.gov

1. ENTER INFORMATION

First Name *

Middle Name

Last Name *

Mailing Address

City *

Country *

State or Province *

Postal Code

Email Address

Fax Number

Organization Name

Submitter's Representative

Government Agency Type

Government Agency

2. TYPE COMMENT

Comment *

2000 characters remaining

3. UPLOAD FILE(S) (Optional)

4. SUBMIT COMMENT

Please see the [Privacy and Use Notice](#) regarding comment submission.

Any information (e.g., personal or contact) you provide on this comment form or in an attachment may be publicly disclosed and searchable on the Internet and in a paper docket and will be provided to the Department or Agency issuing the notice. To view any additional information for submitting comments, such as anonymous or sensitive submissions, refer to the Privacy and Use Notice, the Federal Register notice on which you are commenting, and the Web site of the Department or Agency.

Before

You are commenting on:

The **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)** Notice: [Plants for Planting Whose Importation is Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis: Data Sheets for Taxa of Plants for Planting That are Quarantine Pests or Hosts of Quarantine Pests](#)

For related information, [Open Docket Folder](#)

1 Your Information

Information entered will be viewable on Regulations.gov [View Commenter's Checklist \(PDF\)](#) | [Alternate Ways to Comment](#)

Comment (Required)

5000 characters remaining

Upload file(s) (Optional)

First Name (Required) Last Name (Required)

Contact Information

Mailing Address

City (Required) State or Province (Required) Zip/Postal Code

You can't leave this field blank

Country (Required)

Email Address Fax Number

I am submitting on behalf of my organization

Please see the [Privacy Notice](#) and [User Notice](#) regarding comment submission.

Any information (e.g., personal or contact) you provide on this comment form or in an attachment may be publicly disclosed and searchable on the Internet and in a paper docket and will be provided to the Department or Agency issuing the notice. To view any additional information for submitting comments, such as anonymous or sensitive submissions, refer to the Privacy Notice and User Notice, the Federal Register notice on which you are commenting, and the Web site of the Department or Agency.

After

Regulations.gov – Developers page/ APIs

- ◆ Released the data API in February 2012 – provides a uniform application programming interface (API) to share publicly available information through Regulations.gov
 - Includes regulatory data and content within dockets and documents on Regulations.gov
 - Enables citizens to design websites and mobile applications using federal regulatory data
 - Collaborating with partner agencies using the commenting API

The screenshot shows the 'regulations.gov' website with the 'Developers' section selected. The 'Terms of Service' tab is active, displaying the following content:

Regulations.gov API Terms of Use

Regulations.gov offers its public data in machine readable format via an Application Programming Interface ("API"). This service is offered subject to your acceptance of the terms and conditions contained herein as well as any relevant sections of the Regulations.gov website Privacy Policy and User Notice (collectively, the "Agreement").

Scope

All of the content, documentation, code and related materials made available to you through Regulations.gov is subject to these terms. Access to or use of Regulations.gov services or its content constitutes acceptance to this Agreement.

Use

You may use any Regulations.gov API to develop a service to search, display, analyze, retrieve, view and otherwise obtain information from Regulations.gov data.

- The API can be used on demand, or the content can be queried and pulled into a separate database managed by an organization with an account ID.
- To utilize the API, the organization must register and use a valid API key. The account API key must be included in each query when using the API.
- Regulations.gov content is updated every day. API users who repackaging and share the data or content with the public should display the "last updated" date near the Regulations.gov content.
- End products that use Regulations.gov must conspicuously post to public users the following statement: "Regulations.gov and the Federal government cannot verify and are not responsible for the accuracy or authenticity of the data or analyses derived from the data after the data have been retrieved from Regulations.gov." Federal department and agency logos may not be used by persons who are not Federal agency employees or in relation to products (including Web pages) that are not Federal agency-sponsored.
- All services which utilize or access the API should display the following notice prominently within the application: "This product uses the Regulations.gov Data API but is neither endorsed nor certified by Regulations.gov." You may use the Regulations.gov name or logo in order to identify the source of API content subject to these rules. You may not use the Regulations.gov name, logo, or the like to imply endorsement of any product, service, or entity, not-for-profit, commercial or otherwise.

The screenshot shows the 'regulations.gov' website with the 'Developers' section selected. The 'Showcase' tab is active, displaying a grid of developer projects:

Showcase

NEW! Check out what developers are doing with Regulations.gov APIs:

- Bloomberg Government**: A screenshot of the Bloomberg Government website featuring 'THE SINGLE SOURCE' for data, analysis, and news, and 'THE BUSINESS IMPLICATION GOVERNMENT'.
- Docket Wrench**: A screenshot of the Docket Wrench website with the tagline 'Uncover the intricacies of the regulatory process'.
- Notice and Comment**: A screenshot of a website titled 'NOTICE AND COMMENT' with a search bar and a 'SEARCH' button.
- Office of the Federal Register**: A screenshot of the Office of the Federal Register website showing a search bar and a 'SEARCH' button.

Regulations.gov – Social Media Usage

- ◆ The Youtube Channel has enabled promotion of PMO webinars and videos on February 2012 site relaunch
- ◆ The Twitter page is used daily to announce the latest participation opportunities

The image displays two screenshots of social media profiles for Regulations.gov. The top screenshot shows the YouTube channel page, featuring a banner with the 'YourVoice' logo and the text 'regulations.gov'. The channel is categorized under 'Education' and 'Government'. The bottom screenshot shows the Twitter profile for @RegulationsGov, which is verified. The profile bio states: 'Official Twitter account. We support your ability to make a difference in Federal decision-making. Your forum: facebook.com/RegulationsGov Washington, D.C. · regulations.gov'. The profile statistics show 13,101 tweets, 138 following, and 2,770 followers. Recent tweets include announcements about 'Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research and Information Order' and 'Marketing Orders: Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia'.

Regulations.gov – Next Social Media venture

- ◆ Extend Regulations.gov Developer outreach via Github in Fall 2013



The screenshot shows the 'regulations.gov' website with the tagline 'Your Voice in Federal Decision-Making'. The page is titled 'Developers' and features a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Help', 'Resources', and 'Feedback and Questions'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main text area. The sidebar contains three sections: 'Overview' (Introduction to Regulations.gov APIs), 'Terms of Service' (Details about using the APIs), and 'Showcase' (Developers' use of the APIs). The main text area has an 'Overview' section that states: 'In early 2012, Regulations.gov released its first set of application programming interfaces (APIs). These APIs include: Document Search API - provides advanced search results in either JSON or XML format. Get Document Information API - provides metadata associated with a specific Document. Get Docket Information API - provides metadata associated with a specific Docket.' It further explains that developers can use these APIs to build applications integrated with Regulations.gov for the web, desktops, and mobile devices. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with navigation links for 'Home', 'About Us', 'Resources', 'Help', and 'Connect With'. The 'Connect With' section includes social media icons for RSS, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, along with a 'Feedback and Questions' section containing links for 'Privacy Notice', 'User Notice', and 'Accessibility Statement'. A 'Partner Sites' section at the bottom left lists 'We the People', 'Federal Register', 'Reginfo', 'Thomas', 'USA.gov', 'E-Gov', and 'Opengov'. A 'Participate Today!' call to action is located at the bottom right.

eRulemaking PMO

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 - Regulations.gov, FDMS Training, Electronic Docket Best Practices, Communications