Public Comment and Response Support
Web-Based Management and Analysis

Each year federal agencies propose and receive comment on thousands of new rules. These comments—which can number in the tens of thousands—must be tracked and analyzed. This can be a daunting task. To help government agencies manage this work, Abt Associates applies user-friendly, web-based software known as CERT or Comment Entry and Response Tracking.

As government agencies face mounting pressure to manage and respond to thousands of public comments, the need for an efficient system of tracking has become increasingly critical. As the principal provider of regulatory and economic analysis for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal and state agencies for more than 30 years, Abt is the go-to company to provide this important support.

The Right Tool
To accurately and efficiently track comments and responses, Abt uses Comment Entry and Response Tracking (CERT)—user-friendly, web-based software specifically designed to serve government needs. This tool expediently organizes and updates comment summaries, agency responses, and comment letter files and attachments.

Promising Accuracy
Each comment is carefully evaluated to ensure that important issues are identified, assessed, and grouped into categories that make sense and which streamline response efforts. Functions enable users to quickly re-categorize comments as needed.

Providing Easy Access
CERT allows for easy access to the comment summaries and responses through the Internet, which also facilitates the work of a geographically dispersed team. Frequent monitoring and uploading of files from the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) gives agency staff quick access to all comment documents and attachments. There is never a need for agency staff to search FDMS.

Navigation Plus
CERT is simple to navigate; and because it is hosted in the cloud, there is never a need to install problematic software on your computer. CERT’s reporting functions offer nearly limitless report variations in Word and Excel file formats.

Examples of CERT’s Applications
CERT is quickly becoming the standard for comment/response work and was used to analyze and categorize comments on the following proposed rules:

• Protections for Subjects in Human Research
• 2014 Standards for the Renewable Fuel Standard Program
• Tier 3 Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards Program
• Light-Duty Greenhouse Gas and CAFE Standards (2012-2016 and 2017-2025)
• Heavy-Duty Greenhouse Gas and CAFE Standards
• Motor Vehicle Fuel Economy Label
• Renewable Fuel Standard 2
• Mobile Sources Air Toxics
• Clean Air Interstate Rule (Transport Rule)
• Implementation of the PM2.5 Standard

Contact
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