

# COMMUNICATIONS POLICY LANGUAGE

## Samples from a Variety of Agencies and Departments

The following pages contain excerpts from the communications and media policies of some USG agencies and departments. Some of this language may change as agencies and departments update their policies in response to the Memorandum to the Heads of Departments and Agencies released by OSTP Director John Holdren on December 17, 2010. Nonetheless, the samples are provided here to suggest a range of possible policy approaches.

### **Also, with regard to the December 17 Memo's requirement to adopt appropriate whistleblower protections:**

To the extent your agency or department has already explicitly adopted specific whistleblower protections, you may simply make reference to them in your scientific integrity policy.

Alternatively, OSTP recommends including—at a minimum and in consultation with your general counsel—language akin to the following:

Under these scientific integrity guidelines, [Agency or Department name] shall continue to comply with the requirements of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 (WPA), Public Law 101-12, and its expanded protections enacted by Public Law 103-424. The [Agency/Department name] shall also continue to comply with all Department- and Agency-specific WPA regulations, rules, and policies.