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*GAO Report Finds OMB's Reviews of Agency Draft Rules Need More Transparency
Despite Improvements*

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Abstract by Melissa Sutton

The article takes a look at the United States General Accounting Office's (GAO) report on its investigation of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) regulatory review process. The OIRA is required by Executive Order No. 12,866, issued in 1993, to review agency rules before they are published in the *Federal Register*.

The author reviews the three goals set by the GAO in conducting the study: (1) to describe the OIRA review process overall and any recent changes; (2) to examine rules from various health, safety, or environmental agencies that were returned, withdrawn, or changed at OIRA's suggestion, and (3) to analyze why certain rules received a "high priority" review designation. The article concludes that, overall, the GAO applauds OIRA's improvements in the transparency of the review process under the current Administrator. However, the article notes that the GAO did not fail to notice the difficulties it encountered in writing the report, thus highlighting the inconsistencies and weaknesses in the implementation of the rules applicable to both OIRA and the rulemaking agencies.