

CHRONOLOGY OF WHITE HOUSE MEETINGS

NARA has had many contacts and meetings with the White House over the last six years for the purpose of providing guidance and assistance in terms of Presidential Record Act issues. NLMS has daily contact with White House staff offices and often responds gives informal guidance on records issues or has regular meetings with these Offices. The following is a description of the types of meetings NARA has had with the White House, with more detail provided on those meetings specifically dealing with the email system. An * by other meetings indicates that the primary purpose of the meeting was a discussion of an electronic record system.

1. Transition Meetings:

NARA staff including N, ND, NGC, NL and NLMS had several meetings with the Bush Transition Team, including Judge Gonzales, to go over Presidential Records Act issues in November 2000 – January 2001.

2. Briefings for New White House Counsels and Associate Counsels on PRA Issues:

NARA staff, including NL, NLMS and NGC, have had a series of briefings during the last six years to go over PRA issues. We have briefed all new Counsels to the President and Associate Counsels dealing with the PRA. In January and February 2001, NGC and NLMS responded to questions from the White House Counsel's Office concerning its issuance of PRA guidance, which was issued in February 2001. In January 2005, at the request of the White House Counsel, NARA provided comments and suggestions for updating the PRA guidance. White House Counsel issued new guidance in June 2006.

3. Meetings with NSC*:

NARA staff including NGC and NLMS have had series of meetings over the past six years with the National Security Council's Access and Management Directorate going over their email and other electronic systems, offering advice on what should be consider NSC PRA records, and getting updated briefings from NSC on their electronic systems. We last met with NSC on 12/7/2006 regarding their new systems. From NARA, Nancy Smith, Kate Dillon-McClure, Jason Baron, and Sam Watkins met with Bill Leary and John Ficklin of NSC, and Phil Droege or WHORM.

On January 18, 2007, White House Counsel informs NGC and NLMS that the NSC RMS has gone down for about a twenty-four hour period. Bill Leary, NSC Senior Directorate for Access Management says that NSC is doing everything it can to get their IT support to recover the information from backup tapes. Recently Bill Leary called NLMS to say that NARA should be receiving a report on the final outcome of this situation.

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4. Meetings with the White House Photo Office*:

NLMS along with NHV have had several meetings with the White House Photo Office on the electronic system controlling and holding digital copies of the Bush White House Photos. The last meeting in which NH participated occurred on 6/18/2004.

5. Meetings with White House and Department of Justice and the Secret Service regarding the WAVES and other Secret Service White House electronic systems*:

NARA staff including NGC, NLMS and NWM have had a series of meeting on the status of the WAVES and other Secret Service electronic systems governing access to the White House, the White House compound and the Vice President's house. NARA has also given written input on this issue.

6. Meetings with White House Office of Records Management:

NLMS along with NHV staff have had a series of meetings over the past six years giving WHORM assistance on PRA issues and their electronic RMS system.

7. Meetings on Disposal of Presidential and Vice Presidential Bulk Mail:

NLMS and NGC staff have had a series of discussion and meeting with White House and the Office of the Vice President Counsel, the Director of White House Office of Records Management, and the Correspondence Unit staff on disposal of Presidential and Vice Presidential textual and electronic bulk mail and faxes. In a series of letters between the Archivist and White House and OVP Counsel, approval to dispose of Presidential and Vice Presidential textual and electronic bulk mail and faxes was given after retaining a sample by the Archivist in 2001, 2002, and 2005. NLMS staff sample this mail at the White House on a weekly basis.

8. Meetings with the White House Gift Office:

NLMS staff have had a series of meetings with the White House Gift Office providing them guidance on their electronic database and dealing with electronic transfer of this information to the NLMS iO database. Additionally, NLMS staff have provided briefings for each new head of the Bush White House Gift Office, guidance on gifts and disposal of gifts. NLMS and NGC have also met with the Associate White House Counsels who deal with gift issues.

9. Meetings with White House Counsel and the Department of Justice on input on EO 13233:

From the fall of 2001 forward N, ND, NGC, NL and NLMS have had a series of meetings, written and oral discussions regarding advice on EO 13233, changes to EO 13233, and implementation of EO 13233.

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10. Meetings with WHCA on White House TV and Film*:

NLMS staff have had several meeting with James Vankeuren on the WHCA's electronic system controlling and describing White House TV and Film materials.

11. Meeting with the Vice President's Staff:

NGC and NLMS have had several meetings with the Office of the Vice President's staff on Vice Presidential records issues.

12. Meetings with the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board Staff:

NGS and NLMS have had several meetings providing PFIAB advice on Presidential Records Act issues.

13. Meetings and Input to OA on the Bush Email Systems*:

NARA staff, including ND, NGC, NLMS, NWM, NWME, and NHV, have had a series of meetings and conversations with OA on the Bush email systems. Most of these meetings have been composed of a smaller sub-set of the NARA EOP team. Various members of NARA staff have had either meetings or discussions regarding OA IT issues and the OA schedule throughout this period. The following is a non-inclusive list of meetings between NARA and OA staff on the White House email system:

- On February 13, 2001, a NARA team consisting of NHV, NWM, and NLMS met with OA/IST to discuss NARA-OA Targeted Assistance.
- Between November 2001 and February 2002, NHV had preliminary discussions with various OA and WHORM staff, including Jim Wright, Lee Clay, Nell Doering, Tony Barry, Terry Good, Bob Spangler, and Sharon Whitt, regarding the broad, high level requirements for a replacement to the ARMS system.
- On November 6, 2002, NHV met with Carlos Solari (acting CIO) and five other EOP representatives regarding the difficulties EOP was having implementing records management with Microsoft Xchange and other issues.
- On March 20, 2003 NARA met with OA to get an update on the new EOP IT systems, and discuss other EOP records issues.
- On April 22, 2003 OA and NARA staff meet discussing electronic records management for the EOP including ARMS redesign and other RM tools, their enterprise architecture review, and other systems upgrades. NARA attendees at this meeting included ND, NGC, NLMS, NWM, and NHV. OA staff included Tim Campen, Carlos Solari, Lee Clay, Steve McDevitt, and Markus Most.

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- On May 6, 2003, at the request of the EOP, NARA provided comments on the ECRMS Concept of Operations document. ECRMS was the designation given for the system designed to replace ARMS.
- In 2004, members of the EOP team including NHV, NWM, NLMS, and NGC had a series of meetings with OA to discuss their email systems (ARMS and Legato), their plans to change from ARMS to ECRMS and also gave input on various documents OA circulated to NARA for comment:
 - On January 6, 2004 two members of OA staff, Keith Regatts, the Project Manager, and Markus Most, the then OA Records Manager, came to Archives II with their EOP contractors to meet with NARA staff to gather requirements from NARA for their new system to collect, preserve and transfer to NARA electronic messages. On January 21, 2004, Keith sends Sam Watkins the draft ECRMS requirement listing for NARA's review and comment.
 - On February 2, 2004, NARA met with OA and White House staff at OA for what was called an ECRMS Stakeholder Review Session with NARA. This meeting included discussion of a variety of emails issues including the Legato/Xchange interface with ARMS, as well as NARA's response to EOP's "metadata management" alternative proposal, segregation of Federal from Presidential email, the default bucket, and NARA's position on EOP electronic calendars. NARA staff included ND, NGC, NLMS, NWM, and NHV.
 - On February 12, 2004, NARA provided comments to the EOP on the ECRMS requirements.
 - On May 13, 2004, NARA provided the EOP with comments on the ECRMS System Design Description document.
 - May – June 2004, NARA responds to EOP questions regarding snapshots of EOP hard-drives.
 - No meetings took place in 2005 and 2006. Essentially, development of ECRMS was delayed after the 2004 election.
- On February 2, 2006, NGC and NLMS called Associate White House Counsel Jenny Brosnahan to ask her if she knew anything about the quote in the paper that said that "in an abundance of caution, we advise you that we learned that no all e-mail of the Office of the Vice President and the Executive Office of the President for certain time period in 2003 was preserved through the normal archiving process on the White House computer system." Jenny said that she did not know anything but would check with the lawyer responsible for responding to Libby requests. On February 6, 2006, NGC spoke with OA Counsel Vic Berson, who

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clarified that they did not believe there was not a loss of email, but rather they believed the email were not sent into ARMS, or an equivalent electronic recordkeeping system; they believed that the emails existed and could be accounted for.

- In the fall of 2006, NARA re-initiates effort to meet with OA to discuss status of ECRMS and related issues.
 - On February 6, 2007, ND, NLMS, NGC, NHV, NWM meet with OA CIO Theresa Payton and OA staff to discuss NARA's need for knowledge of OA electronic email and other electronic systems managed by OA. OA explains that ECRMS is not being implemented, and therefore emails are no longer being preserved in a formal electronic recordkeeping system (and NARA will thus likely receive emails in multiple formats). OA gives NARA no indication that there is a problem with any missing emails.
- On March 29, 2007, NGC and NLMS call Associate White House Counsel Chris Oprison regarding news reports about the possibility of PRA emails not being saved on personal/political accounts.
- On April 14, 2007, NGC calls Chris Oprison to request a briefing on further press reports on White House emails.

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