

Comment from Cary Coglianese

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The report, on pages 13-15, proposes a way to change the manner in which documents are classified in FDMS/Regulations.gov. As the report points out, this is a daunting, resource-intensive undertaking. Might an alternative be to open the data up on FDMS to commonly used search engines, such as Google?

Search engines currently do not capture all materials on Regulations.gov. For example, when one searches Google for “asbestos,” after limiting the search to the “Regulations.gov” domain, only ten results appear. If one searches “asbestos” in Regulations.gov, nearly 26,000 results appear. Allowing search engines to capture FDMS’s underlying data would perhaps make it easier for people to find rulemaking materials, without the need for the eRulemaking Program to change the existing classifications. I look forward to the discussion.