



Senior Agency Official for Records Management 2021 Annual Report

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requires Senior Agency Officials for Records Management (SAORM) to provide an annual report demonstrating how agencies are handling important records management initiatives as identified by NARA.

NARA uses the reports to determine the overall progress of the federal government in managing its records and the transition away from paper to digital formats, and to identify best practices and model solutions within federal agencies.

On June 28, 2019, the Office of Management and Budget and the National Archives issued a memorandum: *Transition to Electronic Records* (M-19-21) to ensure that all federal records are created, retained, and managed in electronic formats by December 31, 2022. On January 1, 2021, Congress enacted the Preservation of Electronic Messages and Other Records Act, amending 44 U.S.C. Chapter 29, that requires the electronic capture, management, and preservation of such electronic records in accordance with the records disposition requirements of 44 U.S.C. Chapter 33. This year's SAORM report provides an opportunity for agencies to report on plans and progress towards electronic records keeping and preservation under both these requirements, as well as other important records management initiatives.

The reporting period begins on January 10, 2022, and reports are due back to NARA no later than March 11, 2022.

NARA plans to post your 2021 SAORM report on the NARA website upon receipt. Please ensure that your agency's report is a publicly releasable version. This action is in the interest of transparency in government and to promote collaboration and communication among agencies. NARA intends to list any non-responding agencies in a summary report and on the website.

Instructions for Reporting:

- This template covers records management program developments towards the transition to electronic recordkeeping outlined in M-19-21 through December 31, 2021, and other aspects of agency records management programs.
- Please be brief and precise in your answers. Limit answers to each question to no more than 500 words.
- Please complete the questions/items below and send the report to rmsselfassessment@nara.gov. Include the words "SAORM 2021 Annual Report - [Agency Name]" in the subject line of the email.

- If you are responsible for records management in multiple agencies, components, or bureaus, please determine how you will submit reports to NARA. While NARA prefers a comprehensive report, you may submit separate reports for each component.

Provide the following information (required):

- Name of SAORM: Diana J. Veilleux
- Position title: Chief, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch
Program Counsel Division
- Address: 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 500,
Washington, DC 20005

1. What agencies, bureaus, components, or offices are covered by this report and your position as SAORM, and which will be reporting separately?

Please provide a list, and also indicate any that are new or have been changed due to reorganization or other circumstances.

This report covers all offices of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

2. Has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted policies or practices related to records management at your agency?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

Please explain your response (include details of specific challenges, if applicable):

Records management policies and practices have not changed since all records were managed electronically prior to the pandemic.

3. Does your agency have an established information governance framework that integrates records management, data management, and other agency information lines of business? (This includes a relationship between CIO, CDO, SAORM, DRO/ARO, RM Staff, Security, Privacy Officers, and FOIA)

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

Please provide details. If 'Yes,' provide details on how your RM program is integrated into this framework. If 'No' or 'Do not know,' please explain your response.

OGE's records management program supports and is supported by the other information lines of business at the agency through open and frequent collaboration and consultation.

4. Will your agency meet the goal to manage and preserve all permanent records in an electronic format with appropriate metadata by December 31, 2022? (M-19-21, 1.2)

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

Please explain your response (include specific goals, example metrics, and/or challenges):

OGE currently manages all permanent and temporary records in an electronic format in an authorized record-keeping system or application. OGE has in place an agency-wide records management policy in accordance with the Federal Records Act and guidance issued by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). During FY 2020, the OGE Records Officer provided guidance and training for all OGE personnel on how to manage permanent and temporary electronic records. OGE also has in place written guidance on managing records in electronic record-keeping systems and applications to ensure that the systems meet the universal ERM requirements.

5. Will your agency meet the goal to manage and preserve all temporary records in an electronic format by December 31, 2022? (M-19-21, 1.3)

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

Please explain your response (include specific goals, example metrics, and/or challenges):

See Response to Question 4

6. Does your agency have plans to submit to NARA a request for an exception to the M-19-21 requirements before December 31, 2022?

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

Please explain your response. If 'Yes,' please include an estimate of when you plan to submit an exception and any relevant details. If 'No' or 'Do not know,' please explain your response.

Contingent on Federal pandemic safety precautions and if the Federal Government permits employees back onsite to administer records management disposition activities.

7. Is your agency utilizing the General Services Administration's Special Item Number for Electronic Records Management ([518210 ERM](#)) 6 to procure solutions to assist in transitioning to an Electronic Environment?

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

Please explain your response. If 'Yes,' please include specific examples and how this will support records management processes. If 'No' or 'Do not know,' please explain.

Current OGE inhouse recordkeeping practices ensure electronic records management requirements are incorporated throughout all mission support shared service functions, including human resources and financial management. Additionally, OGE's shared electronic resources and systems comply with the policies and mandates set forth by NARA and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

8. Has your agency developed plans to meet the requirements of M-19-21, 1.3 to store temporary records in commercial storage facilities by December 31, 2022?*

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

**M-19-21, 1.3 includes closing of agency-operated storage facilities and no new transfers of paper records to the Federal Records Centers.*

Please explain your response. If 'Yes,' provide details about the use of commercial storage and other changes related to storage. If 'No' or 'Do not know,' please explain.

OGE continues to take specific actions to support the transition to electronic recordkeeping. OGE will not produce temporary records in analog formats, to the fullest extent possible, by 2022. OGE is also preparing to disposition inhouse hardcopy inactive temporary records. If any hardcopy records remain after dispositioning activities, they will be digitized or transferred to a local FRC before 12/31/2022, if eligible for destruction after 12/31/2022

9. Do you, as the SAORM, see challenges within your agency in meeting the goal of fully-electronic recordkeeping?

- Yes
 No
 Do not know

Please explain your response (include details of specific challenges, if applicable):

No because OGE has already met this goal.

10. NARA is always working on ways we can make your role as the SAORM easier, improve how we interact with you and how you interact with each other. Do you have any suggestions?

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response (include any comments on previous NARA SAORM engagements, topics for future engagements, or other suggestions):

NARA already provides regular opportunities for engagement with agency SAORMs.