NAPA Seeking Public Engagement in Discussion on NOAA Climate Service

On Monday, June 14 and running for 14 days, the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) will be hosting a “Dialog on a NOAA Climate Service.” NAPA—a non-profit organization that advises the federal government and other non-federal organizations on issues relating to management and administration, including budgeting and finance, performance measurement, human resources management, and information technology—is looking to engage the stakeholder community in a two-week Web-based conversation about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) climate activities and the stakeholder needs for a Climate Service. If you or your colleagues have thoughts on possible structures or responsibilities for a NOAA Climate Service, below is information on how to register for and participate in the “dialog.” You can also check out NAPA’s webpage dedicated to the study here: http://www.napawash.org/pc_management_studies/NOAA/index.html. NAPA plans to deliver its report to Congress and the Administration in September.

As you may recall, in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 appropriations bill, NAPA was directed to provide a report to the Obama Administration and Congress with options for the development of a Climate Service within NOAA. NOAA announced its proposed Climate Service reorganization in February (see: http://www.noaa.gov/climate.html). NOAA will need to attain approval from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees before they can proceed with the new line office. However, actual timing remains uncertain. NOAA has not yet formally sent its reprogramming package to Congress; it plans to wait to see the outcome of the NAPA report. NOAA would like to launch its Climate Service on October 1 (the start of the new fiscal year); but with the NAPA report not delivered until September and Congress yet to receive a reprogramming package from NOAA, it is not likely that the Climate Service will be established according to NOAA’s original timetable.