



## *Senior Agency Official for Records Management 2023 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 (OMB) and NARA issued a memorandum, *Transition to Electronic Records* ([M-19-21](#)), to ensure that all federal records are created, retained, and managed in electronic formats. M-19-21 gave agencies until the end of December 2022 to comply with several specific deadlines.

On December 23, 2022, OMB and NARA issued a new memorandum, *Update to Transition to Electronic Records* ([M-23-07](#)) reinforcing the goals in M-19-21 and extending the 2022 deadlines to June 30, 2024.

Additionally, 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 recordkeeping and preservation under these requirements, as well as other important records management initiatives.

**The reporting period begins on January 8, 2024, and reports are due back to NARA no later than March 8, 2024.**

NARA plans to post your 2023 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 on our website.

---

Instructions for Reporting:

- This template covers records management program developments, including those related to the transition to electronic recordkeeping as required by M-19-21 and M-23-07.
- 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](mailto:rmsselfassessment@nara.gov). Include the words “SAORM 2023 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.

NARA may follow up with agencies to obtain additional information and/or documentation related to responses provided in the template.

As in previous years, we will be validating selected questions and responses from agencies. Your agency may be selected at random to provide additional documentation and/or take part in interviews to discuss your records management program activities.

Provide the following information (required):

- Name of SAORM: **David B. Fountain**
- Position title: **Executive Vice President and General Counsel**

**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 indicate any that are new or have been changed due to reorganization or other circumstances.*

**This report will be all inclusive for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).**

**2. Will your agency meet the goal to manage, preserve and transfer all permanent records in an electronic format with appropriate metadata by June 30, 2024? (M-19-21, 1.2 and M-23-07, 1.1 and 1.2)**

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable, all records are in electronic format

*If 'No,' why not? (Please include if you will be submitting an exception request and/or details of specific challenges in meeting the goal.)*

---

**3. Will your agency meet the goal to manage and preserve all temporary records in an electronic format by June 30, 2024? (M-19-21, 1.3 and M-23-07, 1.3)**

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable, all records are in electronic format

*If 'No,' why not? (Please include if you will be submitting an exception request and/or details of specific challenges in meeting the goal.)*

**4. Will your agency meet the requirements of M-19-21, 1.3 and M-23-07, 1.3 to close agency-operated records storage facilities by June 30, 2024? (Choose all that apply)**

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable, my agency does not have agency-operated records storage facilities
- Not applicable, all records are in electronic format

*If 'No,' why not? (Please include if you will be submitting an exception request and/or details of specific challenges in meeting the goal.)*

**5. Will your agency meet the requirements of M-19-21, 1.3 and M-23-07, 1.3 and transfer inactive records to a NARA Federal Records Center (FRC) or commercial storage facilities by June 30, 2024? (Choose all that apply)**

- Yes, we will transfer to the FRC
- Yes, we will transfer to commercial storage facilities
- No
- Not applicable, all records are in electronic format

*If 'No,' why not? (Please include if you will be submitting an exception request and/or details of specific challenges in meeting the goal.)*

**6. Does your agency have a Data Management Strategy that includes records management principles? (<https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/resources/cdo-rm-assessment-report.pdf>)**

- Yes

---

No

*Please explain your response.*

Enterprise Records is integrated into the Data Governance Strategy to achieve common goals to ensure that agency records are appropriately managed throughout the records lifecycle and that data policies exist to manage non-record material, as well as to control access and approve use of information.

**7. In your role as SAORM, do you meet with your Agency Records Officer(s) to discuss the agency records management program's goals?**

Yes

No

Not applicable, my agency does not currently have a designated Agency Records Officer

*Please explain your response. (If 'Yes,' please include how often, a description of topics, and outcomes of these meetings. If 'No,' please explain why not.)*

The Enterprise Records program is within my oversight as Executive Vice President and General Counsel for TVA, and the Agency Records Officer is my direct report and a member of our senior leadership team. Through this organizational structure, I am directly engaged with the program and receive weekly updates on new regulations and directives, enterprise-wide projects, and issues for resolution. This provides me with insight to elevate concerns and create awareness of projects at the executive level of leadership.

Through our business planning process, the team defines high level initiatives, metrics, and key action plans that are tracked and reviewed monthly through milestones and goal achievement. The team works from a program plan that prioritizes regulatory directives and corrective action items to ensure the program continues to develop while meeting the emerging needs of the business. On a quarterly basis, I meet with the full Enterprise Records team to learn about work around the agency.

I am actively engaged in a communications and training plan with the team that includes employee news articles, leadership briefings, video messages, and email blasts regarding federal records management requirements and change management initiatives.

The regulatory requirements of federal records management are mapped within our compliance register and detailed within policies and implementing procedures. The team has built a robust program to ensure that federal records management is connected to all facets of the enterprise.

**8. Has your agency incorporated NARA's digitization standards into your Information Resource Management (IRM) Strategic Plan? (44 U.S.C. 3506(b)(2) and OMB Circular A-130)**

- 
- Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable, my agency is not currently digitizing records

*Please explain your response. (If 'Yes,' what steps have been taken? If 'No,' why not?)*

TVA has incorporated NARA's digitization standards into federal records management policies and implementing guidance. TVA's data governance and information management strategies have embedded those requirements within their programs.

**9. Does your agency have a social media strategy that includes capturing and maintaining records in accordance with records management statutes and regulations?**

- Yes
- No

*Please explain your response.*

TVA currently maintains social media records based on capture by subject matter and publication to the enterprise content management system for lifecycle management. Work is underway to develop and implement a specific social media records policy and retention schedule.

**10. Is there specific policy or guidance you need from NARA to support the strategic direction of your records management program?**

- Yes
- No

*Please explain your response and include any comments on existing, pending, and future topics.*