

Federal Aviation Administration Regulatory Notice and Comment Period

Data Interview with David Cavazos, June 7th, 2012.

1. What is the story of the data?
 - a. The data represents one of several projects examining the federal regulatory rulemaking process and its intersection with agency strategy, corporate and media influence, and judicial review. For each of the projects, data was compiled from multiple open and public sources, including the Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov/>), the Bureau of Economic Analysis (<http://www.bea.gov/>) and the Docket Management System (DMS). The DMS has since been updated and redeployed as www.regulations.gov.
 - b. For this particular project, the data was collected with the intent of assessing agency and corporate behavior within the context of their interaction across multiple regulatory notice and comment periods. The additional influence of media coverage and its impact on agency and corporate interaction was also assessed. Whereas the regulatory notice and comment process has commonly been a focus of public administration research, this particular study is unique in accounting for media influence on the frequency of corporate or industry comments together with their ultimate impact on regulatory outcomes.
 - c. With regard to method, the bulk of the data were collected from the DMS, now available at www.regulations.gov, with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) selected as the agency of study due to the high degree of commercial, private and public interest in the industry which it regulates. All final FAA rules and comments for the period 1996 - 2005 were analyzed, amounting to a total of 71 proposed rules examined. Media influence was measured by counting the number of news articles relevant to the industry within a particular quarter. These articles were retrieved via keyword search from Factiva (2005), with the count being additionally necessary as a control for salience, since regulatory agencies and the government in general are likely to pay more attention to highly salient issues. Statistical analysis of the compiled data was performed using SAS. Results are available in the publications listed below.
2. What form and format are the data in?
 - a. There are multiple data, depending on the variables used. The compiled data sets and variable definitions are available as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.
 - b. SAS was used for statistical analysis, but since the data set in this case was relatively small it was copied and pasted into SAS scripts using the "cards" command.
 - c. Per submission agreement of 7/7/2012, MS Excel formatted data will be transformed and made available in comma delimited (CSV) format.
3. What is the expected lifespan of the dataset?
 - a. As available via www.regulations.gov, the comments for each rule evaluated in this study are time stamped and/or dated, so the original research can be verified or duplicated indefinitely. However, the relevance of the data may be impacted by periodic

amendments to a rule. If the government moves to amend a rule that was included in this study, comment count and media coverage may change accordingly. Taking the possibility of amendment into consideration, the dataset in its current state is likely to remain relevant for four to five more years.

4. How could the data be used, reused, and repurposed?
 - a. As the data was largely collected from open and public sources, a particular value lies in the time savings for other researchers interested in collecting the same or similar data. In this respect, the data may be used as a basis for continued research into FAA or federal rulemaking since 2005.
 - b. Some of the variables have already been reapplied to broader studies of agency strategy and judicial review, with emphasis on the behavior of federal agencies as their regulated industries adjust to economic change.
5. How large is the dataset and what is its rate of growth?
 - a. The spreadsheet includes 71 rows of data corresponding to the 71 proposed rules evaluated in this study. Additionally, definitions for 27 variables are included with the data.
 - b. The dataset is static, with no future growth anticipated.
6. Who are the potential audiences for the data?
 - a. The primary audiences for the data are the public administration and political science communities, whose research domains include regulatory notice and comment and federal agency rulemaking.
 - b. Other disciplines which may have an interest or perspective on the data include the fields of business and strategic management and political economy. Additionally, because of the focus within the research on the effect of the media on industry and regulatory practice, researchers in the field of communications and journalism may also be interested in the data.
7. Who owns the data?
 - a. David Cavazos.
8. Does the data set include any sensitive information?
 - a. Because the data was collected from public and open sources, it contains no intellectual property, personally identifying, or otherwise sensitive information.
9. What publications have resulted from the dataset?
 - a. Cavazos, D. E., & Rutherford, M. A. (2010). Examining How Media Coverage Impacts the Regulatory Notice and Comment Process. *The American Review of Public Administration*, 41(6), 625–638. doi:10.1177/0275074010387660
 - b. Cavazos, D. E. (2007). Capturing the Regulatory Rule-Making Process: How Historical Antecedents of US Regulatory Agencies Impact Industry Conditions. *International Journal of Organizational Analysis*, 15(2).
10. How should the data be made accessible?
 - a. The data will be made available via anonymous public FTP through the University of New Mexico's institutional repository, LoboVault (<http://repository.unm.edu/>).