

Release of Scientific Information to the Public Questions (47-55)

The Review and Release of Scientific Information section was informed by both the 2016 Scientific Integrity survey and 2018 OIG survey, and new items were also developed. This section identifies perceptions related to the consistency, transparency, and timeliness with the clearance and review procedure. Further information is obtained with regards to understanding the interactions that have occurred with the and comfort level in speaking with the media in a professional capacity.

Throughout this survey, skip logic was implemented for certain questions to allow participants to skip parts of the survey that were irrelevant and focus on areas that were applicable. These questions have a total number of respondents less than the total number who completed this survey (< 2668). The table below outlines the questions that were impacted by the survey's skip logic:

Question	Skip logic applied
Question 50: <i>Were you only given the option to provide written comments?</i>	Participants who selected "Yes, I was asked by an outside media entity to provide information" or "Yes, I was asked by the Office of Public Affairs to provide information" in Question 49, <i>Over the past 2 calendar years (2019-2020), were you asked to provide information to the media?</i>
Question 51: <i>Were you interviewed by a member of the media on the phone or virtual platform?</i>	Participants who selected "Yes, I was asked by an outside media entity to provide information" or "Yes, I was asked by the Office of Public Affairs to provide information" in Question 49, <i>Over the past 2 calendar years (2019-2020), were you asked to provide information to the media?</i> Or participants who selected "No" in Question 50, <i>Were you only given the option to provide written comments?</i>
Question 52: <i>Did an EPA public affairs/media representative join you on the call?</i>	Participants who selected "Yes" in Question 51, <i>Were you interviewed by a member of the media on the phone or virtual platform</i>
Question 53: <i>Considering your experiences over the past 2 calendar years (2019-2020), please rate your agreement with the following statement: I could freely express my scientific views to the media and public provided I specify that I am not</i>	Participants were not required to answer this question

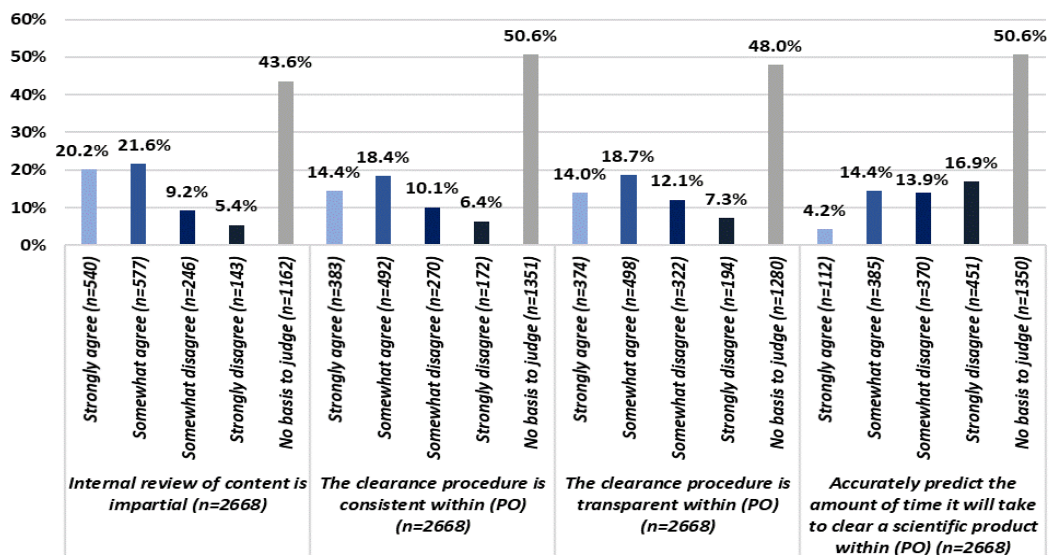
<i>speaking on behalf of, or as a representative of, the Agency</i>	
Question 54: What is your current comfort level and interest in speaking with the media in your professional/expert capacity?	Participants were not required to answer this question

Questions required of all participants are marked with an "R" after the question number.

47.(R) Many parts of the Agency have specific procedures for obtaining permission for the release of scientific products outside of the EPA. Thinking of your experience over the past 2 calendar years (2019-2020), please rate your level of agreement to the following statements about the clearance process or procedure for scientific products in Program Office/Region

	<i>n</i>	%
<i>Internal review of scientific content in Program Office/Region is impartial</i>		
	2668	
No basis to judge	1162	43.6
Strongly disagree	143	5.4
Somewhat disagree	246	9.2
Somewhat agree	577	21.6
Strongly agree	540	20.2
<i>The clearance procedure is consistent within Program Office/Region</i>		
	2668	
No basis to judge	1351	50.6
Strongly disagree	172	6.4
Somewhat disagree	270	10.1
Somewhat agree	492	18.4
Strongly agree	383	14.4
<i>The clearance procedure is transparent with Program Office/Region</i>		
	2668	
No basis to judge	1280	48.0
Strongly disagree	194	7.3
Somewhat disagree	322	12.1
Somewhat agree	498	18.7
Strongly agree	374	14.0
<i>I can accurately predict the amount of time it will take to clear a scientific product within Program Office/Region</i>		
	2668	
No basis to judge	1350	50.6
Strongly disagree	451	16.9
Somewhat disagree	370	13.9
Somewhat agree	385	14.4
Strongly agree	112	4.2

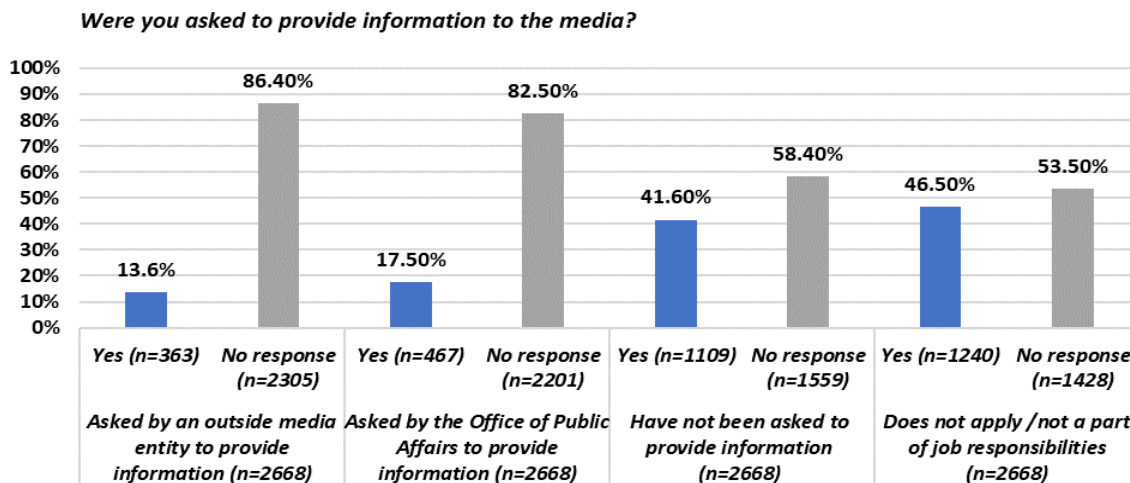
Please rate your level of agreement to the following statements about the clearance process or procedure for scientific products in (PO)



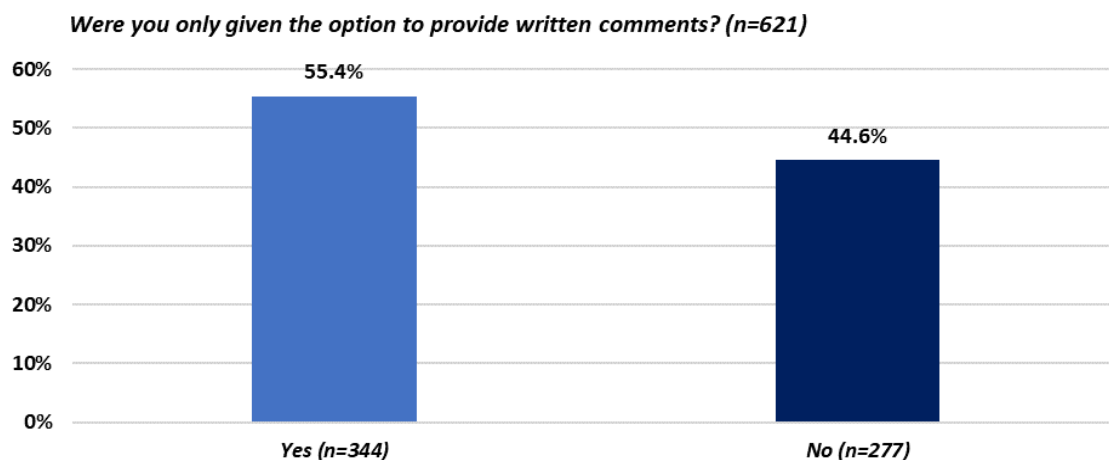
48. Please comment on your personal experiences over the past 2 calendar years (2019-2020) at EPA with the clearance process (for any scientific products to which you contributed) and/or include any suggestions for improvement. Experiences can include internal clearance and/or cross-agency or inter-agency review.

Answers to open-ended questions are being separately analyzed and these results will be made available when this analysis is complete.

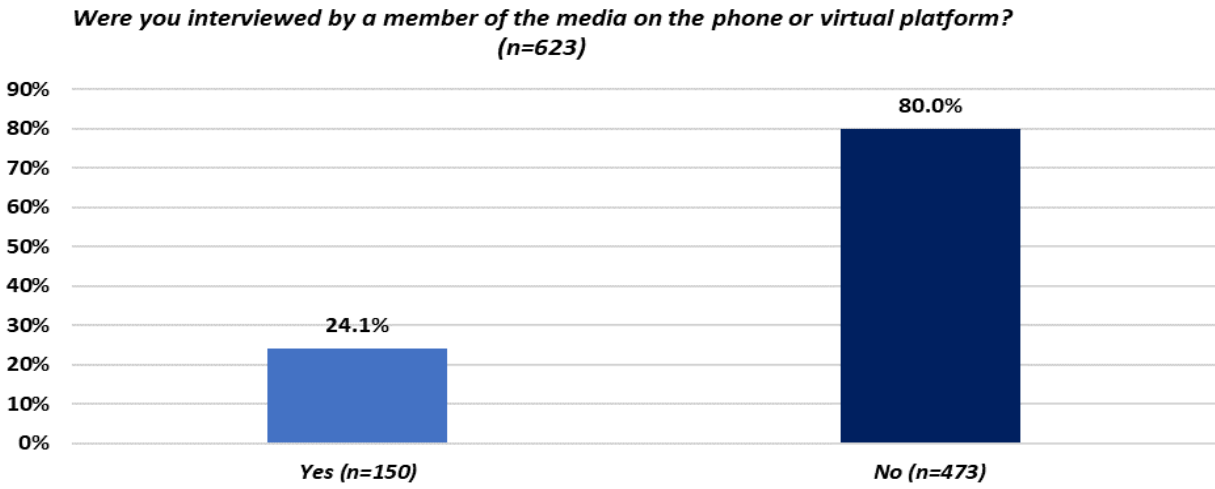
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
49. Over the past 2 calendar years (2019-2020), were you asked to provide information to the media (the term media includes but is not limited to newspaper, magazines, radio, television, internet, or news sections of scientific journals; and responses made by interview or in written form)? Please select all that apply.		
<i>Yes, asked by an outside media entity to provide information</i>	2668	
Yes	363	13.6
No response	2305	86.4
<i>Yes, asked by Office of Public Affairs to provide information</i>	2668	
Yes	467	17.5
No response	2201	82.5
<i>No, have not been asked to provide information</i>	2668	
Yes	1109	41.6
No response	1559	58.4
<i>No, this does not apply to me/it is not a part of my job responsibilities</i>	2668	
Yes	1240	46.5
No response	1428	53.5



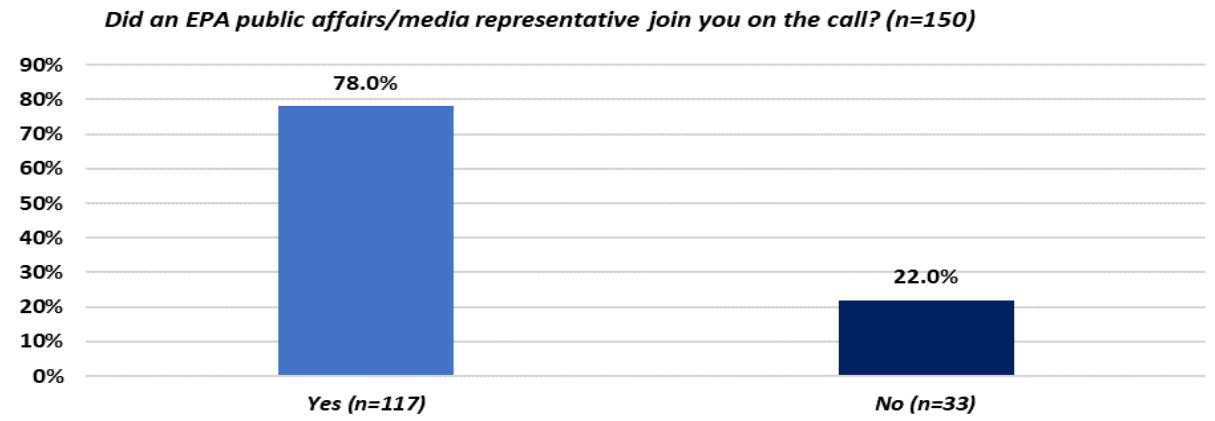
	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
50. Were you only given the option to provide written comments?		
<i>Total</i>	621	
Yes	344	55.4
No	277	44.6



51. Were you interviewed by a member of the media on the phone or virtual platform?		<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Total</i>		623	
Yes		150	24.1
No		473	80.0



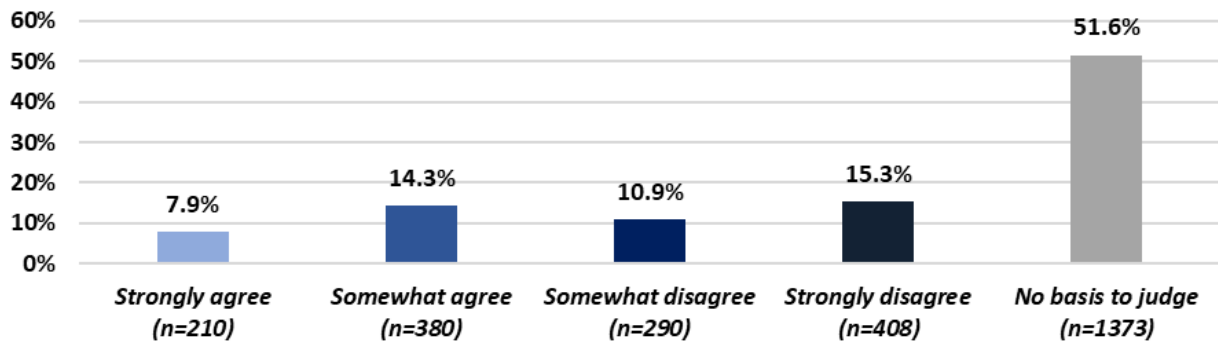
52. Did an EPA public affairs/media representative join you on the call?		<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Total</i>		150	
Yes		117	78
No		33	22



53. Considering your experiences over the past 2 calendar years (2019-2020), please rate your agreement with the following statement: I could freely express my scientific views to the media and public provided I specify that I am not speaking on behalf of, or as a representative of, the Agency

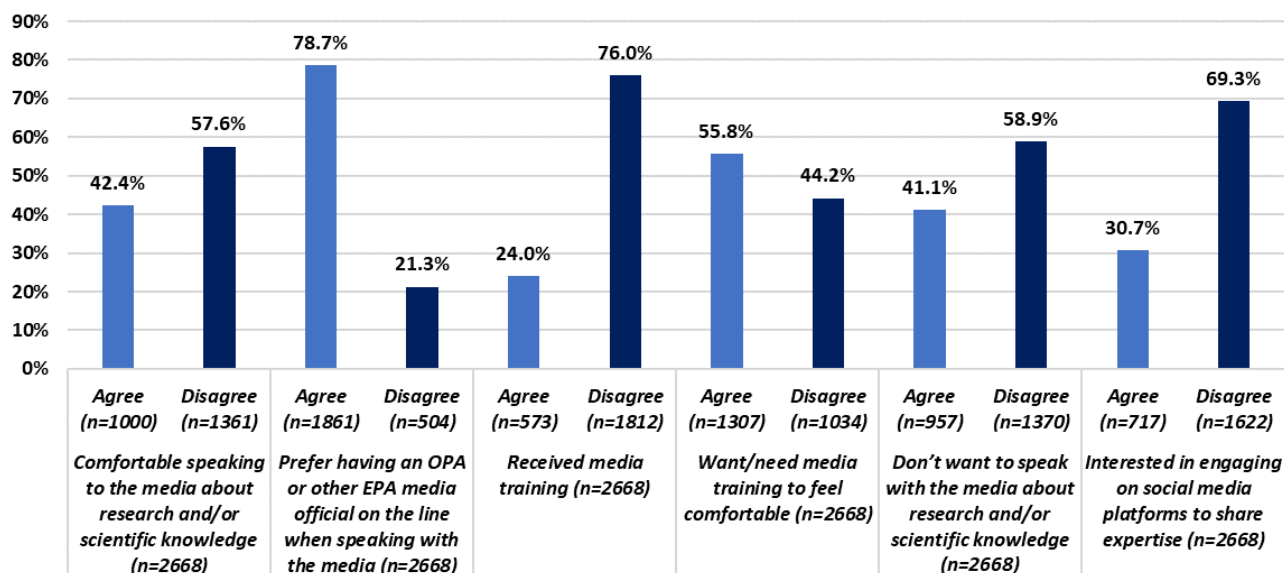
	<i>n</i>	%
<i>Total</i>	2661	
Strongly agree	210	7.9
Somewhat agree	380	14.3
Somewhat disagree	290	10.9
Strongly disagree	408	15.3
No basis to judge	1373	51.6

*Please rate your agreement with the following statement:
 "I could freely express my scientific views to the media and public provided I specify that I am not speaking on behalf of, or as a representative of, the Agency"
 (n=2661)*



	n	%
54. What is your current comfort level and interest in speaking with the media in your professional/expert capacity? Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:		
<i>I am comfortable speaking to the media about my research and/or scientific knowledge</i>	2361	
Agree	1000	42.4
Disagree	1361	57.6
<i>I prefer having OPA or other EPA media official on the line when speaking with the media</i>	2365	
Agree	1861	78.7
Disagree	504	21.3
<i>I have received media training</i>	2385	
Agree	573	24.0
Disagree	1812	76.0
<i>I want/need media training to feel comfortable</i>	2341	
Agree	1307	55.8
Disagree	1034	44.2
<i>I don't want to speak to the media about my research and/or scientific knowledge</i>	2327	
Agree	957	41.1
Disagree	1370	58.9
<i>I am interested in engaging on social media platforms to share my expertise</i>	2339	
Agree	717	30.7
Disagree	1622	69.3

What is your current comfort level and interest in speaking with the media in your professional/expert capacity?



55. Please share anything that you think is useful to aid the Scientific Integrity Program in revising how the Scientific Integrity Policy addresses interactions between EPA scientists and the media.

Answers to open-ended questions are being separately analyzed and these results will be made available when this analysis is complete.