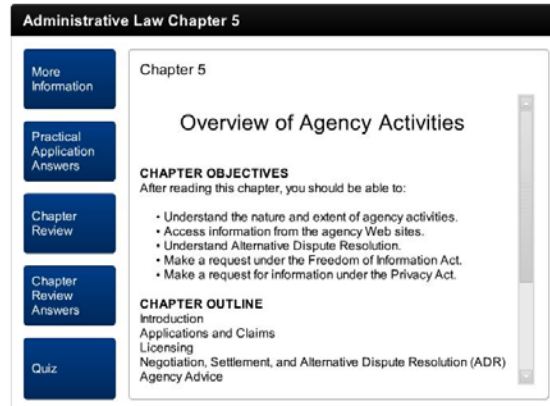


Administrative Law Chapter 5

Chapter 5



Step Text

Overview of Agency Activities

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

- Understand the nature and extent of agency activities.
- Access information from the agency Web sites.
- Understand Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- Make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.
- Make a request for information under the Privacy Act.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

Introduction

Applications and Claims

Licensing

Negotiation, Settlement, and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Agency Advice

Testing and Inspections

Recalls, Seizures, Suspensions, and Quarantines

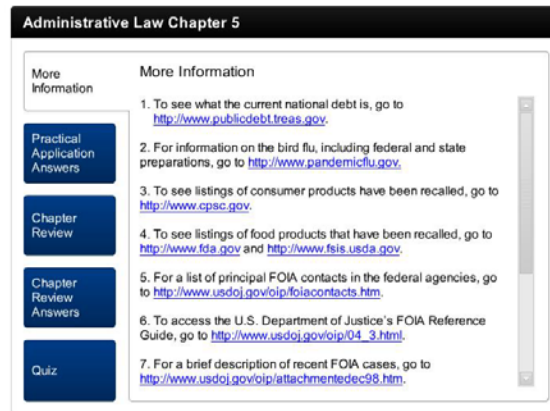
Agency Disclosure of Information

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Privacy Act

More Information

5 seconds



The screenshot shows a web page titled "Administrative Law Chapter 5". On the left is a sidebar with five blue buttons: "More Information", "Practical Application Answers", "Chapter Review", "Chapter Review Answers", and "Quiz". The main content area is titled "More Information" and contains a numbered list of seven items, each with a URL. A vertical scrollbar is visible on the right side of the main content area.

Administrative Law Chapter 5

More Information

1. To see what the current national debt is, go to <http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov>.
2. For information on the bird flu, including federal and state preparations, go to <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>.
3. To see listings of consumer products have been recalled, go to <http://www.cpsc.gov>.
4. To see listings of food products that have been recalled, go to <http://www.fda.gov> and <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>.
5. For a list of principal FOIA contacts in the federal agencies, go to <http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/foiacontacts.htm>.
6. To access the U.S. Department of Justice's FOIA Reference Guide, go to http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/04_3.html.
7. For a brief description of recent FOIA cases, go to <http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/attachededec98.htm>.

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8. To access the U.S. Department of Justice's Overview of the Privacy Act, go to http://www.usdoj.gov/oip/04_7_1.html.

Practical Application Answers

5 seconds

The screenshot shows a digital learning interface with a black header bar containing the text "Administrative Law Chapter 5". On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with five blue buttons: "More Information", "Practical Application Answers", "Chapter Review", "Chapter Review Answers", and "Quiz". The main content area on the right is titled "Practical Application Answers" and contains three numbered steps. Step 1 is bolded and followed by a paragraph. Step 2 is bolded and followed by a paragraph. Step 3 is bolded and followed by a paragraph and two sub-questions, A and B, each followed by a paragraph. A vertical scrollbar is visible on the right side of the content area.

Step Text

1. Pick a federal agency and send a FOIA and Privacy Act request to that agency.

Most federal agencies have a link to the FOIA and the Privacy Act on their Web site. Sample letters are included in the text.

2. Search your state Web site and find your state's equivalent to FOIA and send a request for information to a state agency.

The names will vary, but most states have statutes similar to the FOIA.

3. Go to the Web site of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) at <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

A. State five products that have been recalled in the last year and give the manufacturer and reason for the recall.

Answers will vary.

B. What was the Consumer Product Safety Commission budget request for 2006?

\$62,499,000

4. Go to the Web site of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at <http://www.nrc.gov> and access the following:

A. State the statute that created the NRC.
Energy Reorganization Act of 1974

B. What was the name of the predecessor of the NRC?
Atomic Energy Commission

While at the Web site of the NRC, click on the Electronic Reading Room, read about the accident at Three Mile Island, and answer the following:

C. What year did the accident take place?
1979

D. What was the cause of accident?

The accident began about 4:00 a.m. on March 28, 1979, when the plant experienced a failure in the secondary, non-nuclear section of the plant. The main feedwater pumps stopped running, caused by either a mechanical or electrical failure, which prevented the steam generators from removing heat.

First the turbine, then the reactor automatically shut down. Immediately, the pressure in the primary system (the nuclear portion of the plant) began to increase. In order to prevent that pressure from becoming excessive, the pilotoperated relief valve (a valve located at the top of the pressurizer) opened. The valve should have closed when the pressure decreased by a certain amount, but it did not. Signals available to the operator failed to show that the valve was still open. As a result, cooling water poured out of the stuck-open valve and caused the core of the reactor to overheat.

As coolant flowed from the core through the pressurizer, the instruments available to reactor operators provided confusing information. There was no instrument that showed the level of coolant in the core. Instead, the operators judged the level of water in the core by the level in the pressurizer, and since it was high, they assumed that the core was properly covered with coolant. In addition, there was no clear signal that the pilot-operated relief valve was open. As a result, as alarms rang and warning lights flashed, the operators did not realize that the plant was experiencing a loss-of-coolant accident. They took a series of actions that made conditions worse by simply reducing the flow of coolant through the core.

Because adequate cooling was not available, the nuclear fuel overheated to the point at which the zirconium cladding (the long metal tubes which hold the nuclear fuel pellets) ruptured and the fuel pellets began to melt. It was later found that about one-half of the core melted during the early stages of the accident.

Although the TMI-2 plant suffered a severe core meltdown, the most dangerous kind of nuclear power accident, it did not produce the worst-case consequences

that reactor experts had long feared. In a worst-case accident, the melting of nuclear fuel would lead to a breach of the walls of the containment building and release massive quantities of radiation to the environment. But this did not occur as a result of the Three Mile Island accident.

E. What was the average dose of radiation to which the public was exposed?

Estimates are that the average dose to about 2 million people in the area was only about 1 millirem. To put this into context, exposure from a full set of chest X-rays is about 6 millirem.

F. How many deaths are attributable to the accident?

Zero

Chapter Review

5 seconds

Administrative Law Chapter 5

Chapter Review

1. List and describe some of the activities that agencies do.
2. Define Alternative Dispute Resolution and give three examples. (*The term to describe the various methods to quickly and efficiently resolve matters before an agency.*)
3. Generally agencies do not have to stand behind the advice they give. Explain why.
4. State examples of information that agencies disseminate to the public.
5. What is the purpose of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act?

Step Text

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Chapter Review Answers

5 seconds

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Administrative Law Chapter 5

Chapter Review Answers

- 1. List and describe some of the activities that agencies do.**
Applications and claims, licensing advice, recalls, testing, and inspections
- 2. Define Alternative Dispute Resolution and give three examples.** *(The term to describe the various methods to quickly and efficiently resolve matters before an agency.)*
Arbitration, mediation, and facilitation
- 3. Generally agencies do not have to stand behind the advice they give. Explain why.**
To allow such claims would lead to endless litigation and could result in agencies giving less advice on the fear of being sued, should their advice prove to be mistaken.
- 4. State examples of information that agencies disseminate to the public.**
Pandemic flu information, recalls, diet information, and terrorism prevention

Step Text

1. List and describe some of the activities that agencies do.

Applications and claims, licensing advice, recalls, testing, and inspections

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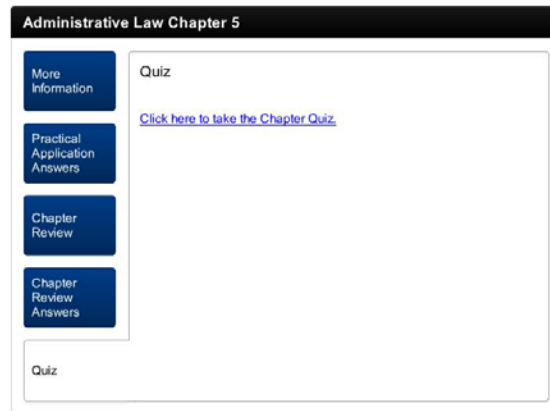
5. What is the purpose of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act?

- The FOIA gives the public access to agency records.
- The Privacy Act protects individuals from unauthorized disclosure of agency records.

Both Acts have exceptions.

Quiz

5 seconds



The screenshot shows a user interface for 'Administrative Law Chapter 5'. On the left is a sidebar with four blue buttons: 'More Information', 'Practical Application Answers', 'Chapter Review', and 'Chapter Review Answers'. The main content area has a title 'Quiz' and a blue hyperlink that reads 'Click here to take the Chapter Quiz.' Below the main content area, there is a small box with the word 'Quiz' inside.

Step Text

[Click here to take the Chapter Quiz.](#)