

The use of SSA's Numident data for SSN verification has a high likelihood of strengthening program integrity across federal and federally funded state-administered health or income maintenance programs. By enabling precise validation of identity attributes against Numident, agencies can more confidently assess the accuracy of payment records. This capability directly supports pre-award, pre-payment, and payment-stage verification processes, reducing the risk of improper payments and enhancing compliance with statutory and policy requirements. The centralized access to verified identity data also facilitates consistent application of payment integrity controls across disparate programs, improving operational efficiency and reducing fraud. The integration of Numident into the Do Not Pay Working System provides a scalable and secure framework for cross-agency collaboration.

4. Benefits of streamlining access to the data through Do Not Pay:

Streamlining access to SSA's Numident data through the Do Not Pay Working System offers significant operational and compliance benefits for federal agencies. By centralizing identity verification services within an established, secure infrastructure, agencies can reduce duplicative efforts, accelerate pre-award, pre-payment, and payment-stage validations, and improve consistency in applying payment integrity controls. This approach minimizes the need for separate data access arrangements, enabling agencies to leverage verified SSN data without navigating complex interagency agreements or bespoke technical integrations. Do Not Pay estimates that full utilization of Numident could address \$1.5 billion to \$4.5 billion in annual at-risk payments. The result is a more efficient, scalable model for identity validation that supports timely and accurate decision-making across programs.

5. Costs associated with expanding or centralizing access, including modifications needed to system interfaces or other capabilities in order to make data accessible:

Establishing access to the Numident data source will require targeted system modifications to support secure and efficient data integration. SSA, as the federal provider of Numident, imposes specific technical and financial requirements for access, including initial fees to develop secure file transfer mechanisms and direct connections. These infrastructure enhancements are necessary to ensure compatibility with existing systems and

to maintain integrity and confidentiality of data. Treasury proposes to directly compensate SSA for these services, consistent with interagency data-sharing practices. Do Not Pay will also incur internal costs related to system interface modifications, maintenance, and operational support to ensure sustained compliance with federal privacy, security, and data governance standards. These investments are essential to enable scalable, policy-compliant access to Numident data for authorized federal use. Treasury determined that integration costs are minimal and can be absorbed within existing development efforts.

6. Other policy and stakeholder considerations:

This direct integration through the Do Not Pay Working System offers a legally sound and operationally efficient mechanism to conduct identity verification in support of payment integrity. By centralizing access within a secure, policy-compliant infrastructure, agencies can reduce administrative burden, eliminate duplicative data access arrangements, and accelerate pre-award, pre-payment, and payment-stage validations. This approach ensures consistent application of verification protocols across programs, enabling agencies to detect and prevent improper payments with greater speed and precision.

Gary Grippo,

Acting Fiscal Assistant Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10, that the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses will meet by teleconference on February 17, 2026. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) and end at 3:00 p.m. EST. All sessions will be open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on proposed research studies, research plans, and research strategies relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War in 1990-91.

On February 17, 2026, the Committee will receive a FACA 101 brief, hear presentations by invited subject matter experts, and discuss next steps for the committee working groups.

This meeting will be available via Webex at the following URL: <https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m59fce0d6c040ab0ea95798bdbeca73cb>. Or, join by phone: 1-833-558-0712 Toll-free; meeting access code: 2826 068 7849. Meeting password: GWVets1991!

The meeting will include time reserved for public comments 30 minutes before the meeting closes. As time is limited, individuals wishing to make public comments can contact VARACGWVI@va.gov in advance to reserve time during the public comment period or submit written comments (max. 2-pages). Each public comment speaker will be held to a 3-5-minute time limit as time permits. Individuals wishing to seek additional information should contact Dr. Karen Block, Designated Federal Officer, at Karen.Block@va.gov.

Dated: February 5, 2026.

LaTonya L. Small,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026-02568 Filed 2-9-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[Docket No. VA-2026-VACO-0001]

Notice of Plans To Assess the Current Scientific Literature and Historical Detailed Claims Data Regarding Neurodegenerative Outcomes and Selected Military Environmental Exposures; Annual Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise To Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act Public Listening Session and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of public comment and listening session.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces its plan to conduct an assessment of the scientific literature and historical claims data regarding the association between military environmental exposure and neurodegenerative outcomes. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1172, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces its plan to designate a technical working group (TWG) to conduct an assessment and development recommendations to VA leadership for formal assessment,