

Parsons Brinckerhoff Washington Update - October 1, 2013 - Interim Report

It is now October 1, the start of the new fiscal year, and the federal government has officially shut down for the first time in 18 years. Most essential functions, such as the military, air traffic control, and TSA security operations, are still up and running, but routine functions have been halted and employees furloughed. If the shutdown lasts only a few days, it will mostly just be a major inconvenience for federal agencies, involving cancelled trips, a lot of unnecessary paperwork, and reimbursed (hopefully) furloughs. If it lasts much longer, it will start to impact federal contractors, the economy, and even potentially the global markets.

The House and Senate continue to ping-pong the government-wide Continuing Resolution (CR) back and forth (yet one more time over night), adding and removing amendments, mostly related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Senate has remained consistent – voting again and again along party lines, 54 to 46, to refuse to accept any changes to the ACA. The House continues its efforts to use the CR as a vehicle to defund, delay or unravel the ACA.

In other October 1 news, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) authorization expired at midnight. Fortunately, funding for Amtrak and rail safety programs continues despite the lack of an authorization bill (or at least it will once a CR has been passed). Congress had planned to pass a PRIIA reauthorization bill this fall, however between the shutdown and the looming debt ceiling debate, it is starting to look less likely.

Click here to read [furlough guidance](#) from the Office of Personnel Management.

The following agencies have posted 2013 contingency plans (click on the agency name to view the plan):

[Agriculture Department](#) (84 percent of employees furloughed)
[Commerce Department](#) (85 percent of employees furloughed)
[Defense Departments](#) (50 percent of civilian employees furloughed)
[Education Department](#) (95 percent of employees furloughed)
[Energy Department](#) (69 percent of employees furloughed)
[Environmental Protection Agency](#) (95 percent of employees furloughed)
[Federal Communications Commission](#) (98 percent of employees furloughed)
[Federal Labor Relations Authority](#)
[General Services Administration](#) (76 percent of employees furloughed)
[Health and Human Services Department](#) (51 percent of employees furloughed)
[Homeland Security Department](#) (14 percent of employees furloughed)
[Housing and Urban Development Department](#) (96 percent of employees furloughed)
[Interior Department](#) (81 percent of employees furloughed)
[Justice Department](#) (16 percent of employees furloughed)
[Labor Department](#) (81 percent of employees furloughed)
[NASA](#)
[National Science Foundation](#) (99 percent of employees furloughed)
[National Transportation Safety Board](#)
[Office of Personnel Management](#)
[Peace Corps](#)
[Small Business Administration](#) (63 percent of employees furloughed)
[Smithsonian Institution](#)

[Social Security Administration](#) (29 percent of employees furloughed)

[State Department](#)

[Transportation Department](#) (33 percent of employees furloughed)

[Treasury Department](#) (90 percent of employees furloughed)

[U.S. Agency for International Development](#)

[Veterans Affairs Department](#) (4 percent of employees furloughed)