



## Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) Program

### THE PCII PROGRAM

#### *Overview*

The PCII Program, part of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), is an information-protection program that encourages information sharing between the private sector and the government. Critical infrastructure information (CII) voluntarily submitted by the private sector can receive:

- ✓ Protection from Freedom of Information Act disclosure
- ✓ Protection from state and local disclosure laws
- ✓ Protection from use in civil litigation
- ✓ Protection from use for regulatory action

#### *The Accreditation Program*

The PCII Accreditation Program was established to uphold stringent safeguards while facilitating access to vital information for homeland security professionals. Under the PCII Accreditation Program, government entities may receive access to PCII after meeting certain requirements. To date, the PCII Program has accredited Arizona, California, Maryland and Massachusetts, as well as the Seattle Police Department and two Federal entities. Applications have been received from more than 20 other Federal, State and local entities. Individuals in an accredited entity must complete training on proper handling and safeguarding procedures and have a need to know specific PCII in order to gain access to it. The PCII Program has trained over 1,000 government employees in the handling and safeguarding of PCII since its inception in 2004.

#### *The Final Rule*

The PCII Procedures Manual is currently being revised to reflect the content of the PCII Program Final Rule. The Final Rule provides:

- ✓ *Expansion of the definition of PCII, granting protection to information in the hands of the submitter.*
- ✓ *Fewer circumstances under which validated PCII can lose its protected status, offering greater assurance for submitters.*
- ✓ *Categorical inclusion of classes of CII, allowing for presumptive validation and more certainty for submitters.*
- ✓ *Submission of CII to other Federal agencies, providing for greater intake capability and greater convenience for submitters.*

The Department of Homeland Security's **PCII Program** was created to encourage industry to share sensitive security-related information with government. It is estimated that over 85 percent of critical infrastructure - the systems, assets, and industries upon which our nation depends - is owned and operated by the private sector. PCII designation prevents disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, State and local disclosure laws and use in civil litigation. Please contact the PCII Program Office at (202) 360-3023 or via e-mail at [pcii-info@dhs.gov](mailto:pcii-info@dhs.gov) for more information about submitting information or gaining access to PCII through the PCII Accreditation Program. Information is also available at [www.dhs.gov/pcii](http://www.dhs.gov/pcii).