



CIVIC TECH DC

Spicy Regs

*Making federal regulatory data
accessible to everyone*

Federal Rulemaking Is Opaque

- ▶ The federal government publishes thousands of proposed rules each year and accepts public comments on all of them
- ▶ This is one of the most important — and least understood — democratic processes in the U.S.
- ▶ Regulations.gov is the official portal: it has the data, but it's nearly unusable for analysis
- ▶ Can't search across agencies, compare trends, or do bulk analysis
- ▶ No way to see which rules got the most attention or identify patterns in public engagement

The Scale of the Data

24.7M

Public Comments

2M

Documents

346K

Dockets

178+ federal agencies · Data spans decades of rulemaking · Source: Mirrulations (public S3 mirror)

All of it is public record. It just wasn't queryable. Until now.

What Spicy Regs Does

- ▶ Free, open platform for exploring and analyzing all regulations.gov data
- ▶ Runs entirely in your browser — no login, no download, no cost
- ▶ Filter dockets by agency, date, keyword, or open comment status
- ▶ See comment volumes, trends, and document details at a glance
- ▶ Query the full dataset with SQL for deeper analysis
- ▶ Public Parquet files available for DuckDB, Python, R, or any analytics tool

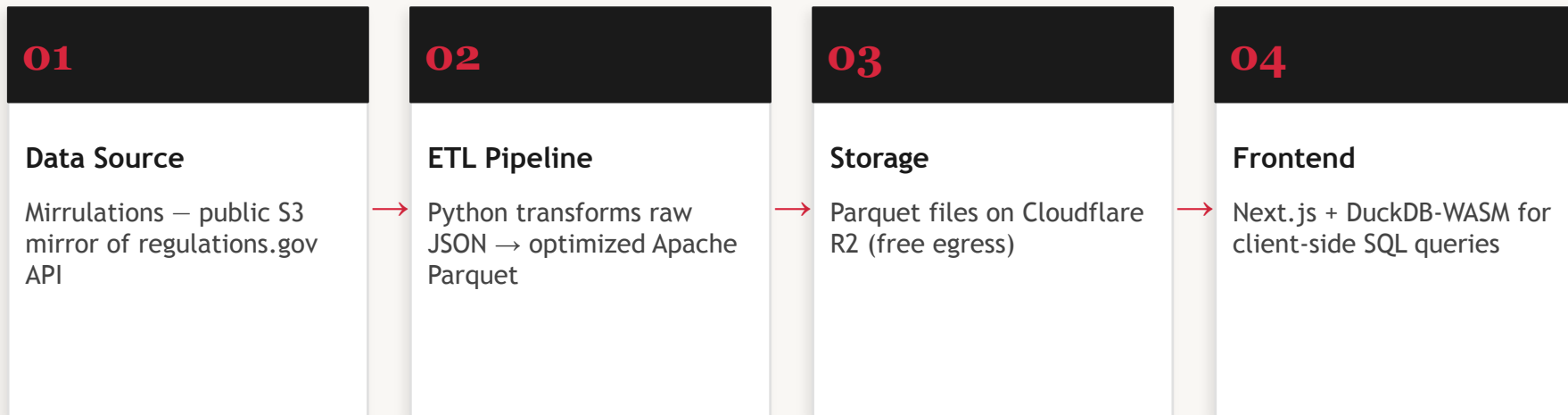
Live Demo

[Insert screenshot of app.spicy-regs.dev]

Recommended: main view, 'Open for Comment' filter, docket detail view

All queries run in your browser via DuckDB-WASM — no server, no login, no cost

How It Works



No backend server required — queries run entirely in the browser, keeping costs near zero

Who Built This & How

- ▶ Built entirely by volunteers at CivicTechDC — DC's civic tech community
- ▶ Contributors include engineers, data scientists, policy researchers, and writers
- ▶ No prior experience with regulations or civic tech required to contribute
- ▶ Open source under MIT license: github.com/civictechdc/spicy-regs
- ▶ Community coordination via Slack ([#spicy-regs](#)) and GitHub Issues
- ▶ Come to a CivicTechDC meetup — people show up, learn, and ship real things together

What's Coming Next

NEAR-TERM

- ▶ Comment text analysis — sentiment, themes, form letter detection
- ▶ Campaign detection — identify coordinated commenting efforts
- ▶ Organization identification — link comments to known advocacy groups
- ▶ Docket timelines — visualize the full lifecycle of a rulemaking

LONG-TERM VISION

- ▶ Semantic search — find related comments using embeddings
- ▶ API access — programmatic access for developers
- ▶ Cross-agency insights and administration comparisons
- ▶ Community-contributed analyses and dashboards

How We Support Your Organization

Journalists & Researchers

Query the full dataset, access public Parquet files, run your own analyses, get early access to new features

Advocacy Orgs

Monitor open comment periods, track rules in your issue area, understand who else is engaging

Policy Staff

Cross-agency comparisons, trend data, pattern detection in public engagement — free and citable

Developers

Build on our open dataset, contribute to the platform, integrate our data into your own tools

All partnership is zero-cost — open-source civic tech built entirely by volunteers

Ways to Partner With Us

USE IT

Explore app.spicy-regs.dev — tell us what's useful, what's missing, what would serve your work

SHARE IT

Share the platform with your network, publish findings based on the data, cite us in your work

SHAPE IT

Tell us what features would serve your organization — we build what's actually needed

BUILD ON IT

Use our public Parquet files and open codebase to build your own tools and dashboards

CONTRIBUTE

Engineers, analysts, policy researchers, writers — all welcome, no experience required

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is this really free?

Yes. No login, no cost, ever. It's open-source civic tech.

Q: How current is the data?

Updated periodically; automated daily refreshes are on the roadmap.

Q: Can I use this in my research or reporting?

Absolutely. All data is public record from regulations.gov.

Q: Can I build my own tool on top of this?

Yes. The Parquet files are publicly accessible and the code is MIT-licensed.

Q: How do I contribute?

Join the CivicTechDC Slack ([#spicy-regs](#)) or open an issue on GitHub. No experience required.

Get Involved



Try it:

app.spicy-regs.dev



Contribute:

github.com/civictechdc/spicy-regs



Join us:

CivicTechDC Slack → [#spicy-regs](#)



Partner with us:

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Explore notebooks:

mybinder.org → [spicy-regs](#)

Schedule 1:1 to talk more!

