



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

August 2, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe:

I respectfully submit the sixth progress report on Federal department and agency compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), pursuant to the President's assignment of his reporting function under Subsection 1609(c) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act). The full report is available online at www.nepa.gov.

This report covers all NEPA activity for Recovery Act Division A funded projects and activities through June 30, 2010. The report shows the 15 Departments and 9 Independent Agencies continue to meet their NEPA obligations in a timely manner. Once again, the progress reported to CEQ indicates that NEPA analyses are informing decisions for expenditure of Recovery Act funds in a timely and environmentally sound manner.

The report includes specific examples of the benefits brought about by the NEPA process. The reporting departments and agencies continue to demonstrate that we can contribute to our nation's economic health while respecting the health of our environment.

No department or agency has reported instances of substantial delays related to NEPA reviews. As of June 30, 2010, more than 97 percent of NEPA actions have been completed and the rest are underway. Agencies will continue to identify the need for additional NEPA actions as Recovery Act funding applications are reviewed and projects are developed, and these will be reflected in future reports.

The report shows that departments and agencies completed more than 184,500 NEPA reviews. More than 174,600 Categorical Exclusions (CEs) were completed. The CEs were used when the departments and agencies found the project or activity did not have significant individual or cumulative effects on the human environment. The departments and agencies reported completing more than 9,000 Environmental Assessments (EAs) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). They also reported analyzing more than 790 projects or activities in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) where the NEPA review was completed with a Record of Decision (ROD).

In addition to the completed NEPA reviews, more than 1,600 NEPA reviews are reported to be underway, including more than 820 CEs, approximately 750 EAs, and approximately 35 EISs.

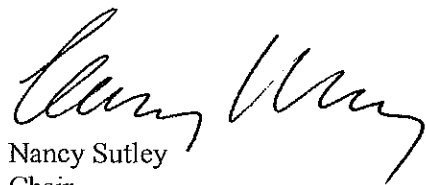
Several agencies are using programmatic NEPA reviews to address similar projects or activities. This facilitates implementation of individual projects or activities by addressing common environmental issues programmatically, eliminating the need to replicate review of those issues in subsequent or site-specific analyses. The number of NEPA reviews underway has decreased by more than 1,160 since the previous report. CEQ is continuing to work with those departments and agencies that have had large numbers of NEPA actions pending for more than one reporting period to ensure that the NEPA processes remain focused and are conducted as expeditiously as appropriate. The number of NEPA reviews pending for more than one reporting period has been reduced by approximately 900 since the previous report.

This report also highlights instances where the environmental review process assisted Federal agencies in improving the quality of their decisions, thereby saving money and energy, protecting vital resources, and increasing public participation.

The completed environmental reviews support making approximately \$243 billion in Recovery Act funds available, an increase of more than \$27 billion since the previous report. For up-to-date information regarding the status of agency obligations and payments under the Recovery Act, please see the Recovery Act website at www.recovery.gov.

The next quarterly report will be submitted in November 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Sutley", written in a cursive style.

Nancy Sutley
Chair