



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

May 18, 2009

Senator Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Room 410
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Nick J. Rahall, II
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Room 2307
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Boxer and Chair Rahall:

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

This initial report shows the agencies have and will continue to meet their NEPA obligations in a timely manner. Overall, the progress reported to CEQ indicates that NEPA analyses are informing decisions for expenditure of Recovery Act funds in an environmentally sound manner. No departments or agencies have reported instances of substantial delays related to NEPA reviews.

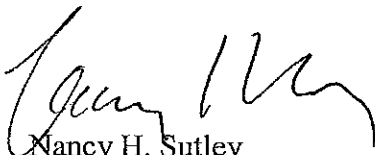
As of April 24, 2009, the Federal departments and agencies reported on over 51,000 Recovery Act funded projects or activities. Over 40,000 NEPA reviews were completed using Categorical Exclusions (CE). The CEs were used when the departments and agencies found the project or activity did not have significant individual or cumulative effects on the human environment. These departments and agencies reported completing over 450 environmental assessments (EA) for Recovery Act funded projects or activities with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Also completed were over 150 projects or activities analyzed 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, about 5,000 NEPA reviews (24 EISs, about 400 EAs, and over 4,500 using CEs) were reported underway as of April 24th.

The completed NEPA reviews support over \$57 billion in Recovery Act funds obligated as of April 24th. 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.

To better coincide with OMB reporting under other provisions of the Recovery Act, the next report will be submitted on August 3, 2009, and subsequent reports will be submitted every 90 days thereafter.

Sincerely,

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

Nancy H. Sutley
Chair