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

May 2, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe:

I respectfully submit the ninth 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 March 31, 2011. The fifteen Departments and nine Independent Agencies reported to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that NEPA analyses are informing decisions for expenditure of Recovery Act funds in a timely and environmentally sound manner.

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 reported instances of substantial delays related to NEPA reviews. Once again, as of March 31, 2011, more than 98 percent of NEPA actions have been completed. Agencies continue to complete the NEPA reviews that are underway and expect the number of additional new NEPA actions and new Recovery Act projects and activities to diminish during this final year of Recovery Act reporting.

The report shows that departments and agencies completed more than 190,000 NEPA reviews. More than 182,300 Categorical Exclusions (CE) 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 6,800 Environmental Assessments (EA) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). They also reported analyzing more than 830 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, approximately 690 NEPA reviews are still underway. NEPA reviews still underway include approximately 370 CEs, approximately 280 EAs, and approximately 34 EISs. Roughly half (47%) of the current NEPA reviews underway were added this quarter. One reason for the increase in new NEPA reviews is that as projects are completed with cost savings, the saved funds may be returned to the agencies and can then be used for new projects or activities.

This report also provides several examples of 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 more than $292.6 billion in Recovery Act funds available, an increase of approximately $5.9 billion since the previous reporting period. 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 August 2011.

Sincerely,

Nancy H. Sutley
Chair

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

May 2, 2011

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman, Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member, Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Markey:

I respectfully submit the ninth 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.

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Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) where the NEPA review was completed with a Record of Decision (ROD).

In addition to the completed NEPA reviews, fewer than 690 NEPA reviews are still underway. NEPA reviews still underway include approximately 370 CEs, approximately 280 EAs, and approximately 34 EISs. Roughly half (47%) of the current NEPA reviews underway were added this quarter. One reason for the increase in new NEPA reviews is that as projects are completed with cost savings, the saved funds may be returned to the agencies and can then be used for new projects or activities.

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Nancy H. Sutley
Chair