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

FACT SHEET: CEQ REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TIMELINES (2010 – 2018)

Background:

- On August 15, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13807, which set a goal of completing reviews and authorizations for major infrastructure projects within two years.
- To assist agencies in streamlining their NEPA processes, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has compiled data on the timelines for Federal agencies to complete environmental impact statements (EISs) pursuant to NEPA.
- CEQ reviewed 1,276 EISs for which a notice of availability of a final EIS was published between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2018, and a record of decision (ROD) was issued by June 18, 2019.
- CEQ assessed the length of time from issuance of a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS, through publication of a draft and final EIS, to publication of a ROD.
- The report is available HERE and the underlying data can be accessed HERE.
- This fact sheet serves as an update to CEQ's December 2018 report and associated fact sheet.

Findings:

- CEQ found that across all Federal agencies, the average EIS completion time (from NOI to ROD) was 4.5 years. Of the 1,276 EISs reviewed:
    - Half took longer than 3.5 years to complete;
    - One quarter of the EISs took more than 6.0 years to complete; and
    - One quarter took less than 2.2 years to complete.
- Average Completion Time by Stage:
    - Notice of Intent to a Draft EIS took on average 58.4 percent of the total time;
    - Draft EIS to Final EIS took on averages 32.2 percent of the total time; and
    - Final EIS to publication of the ROD took on average 9.4 percent of the total time.

Additional Information:

- CEQ also published an updated report on the length, by page count, of EISs prepared by Federal agencies, which found that the average length of a final EIS was over 600 pages.
    - This report, underlying data, and fact sheet can be found on CEQ's website HERE.