FACT SHEET: CEQ REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT TIMELINES

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 1,161 EISs for which a notice of availability of a final EIS was published between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2017, and a record of decision (ROD) was issued by June 7, 2018.
- 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.

Findings:

- CEQ found that across all Federal agencies, the average EIS completion time (from NOI to ROD) was 4 and a half years. Of the 1,161 EISs reviewed:
  - Half took longer than 3 years and 7 months to complete;
  - One quarter of the EISs took more than 6 years to complete; and
  - One quarter took less than 2 years and 2 months to complete.
- Average Completion Time by Stage:
  - Notice of Intent to a Draft EIS – 2 years and 7 months;
  - Draft EIS to Final EIS – 1 year and 5 months; and
  - Final EIS to ROD – 5 months.