



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

August 1, 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 tenth 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, 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 again demonstrate that we can contribute to our nation's economic health while respecting the health of our environment and that the NEPA reviews add value to our decisions to expend Recovery Act funds. No department or agency reported instances of substantial delays related to NEPA reviews. Once again more than 99 percent of NEPA actions have been completed. As of June 30, 2011, more than 191,450 NEPA reviews have been completed and less than 310 remain pending. Agencies continue to complete the NEPA reviews that are underway and expect only a small number of new Recovery Act projects during the final quarter of Recovery Act reporting.

The report shows that departments and agencies completed more than 191,450 NEPA reviews. More than 183,650 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 6,950 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 more than 191,450 completed NEPA reviews, less than 310 NEPA reviews are still underway. NEPA reviews still underway include approximately 95 that are determining the appropriate application of a CE, approximately 180 that are developing EAs, and approximately 30 that are undergoing analysis in EISs. The number of NEPA reviews still pending has been reduced by more than 365 since the previous report. The agencies continue to make good progress in completing their NEPA reviews in a timely fashion.

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 \$296.9 billion in Recovery Act funds available, an increase of approximately \$4.2 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 final quarterly report will be submitted in November 2011.

Sincerely,

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

Nancy H. Sutley
Chair