**Attachment 14A**

**Explanatory Note for Department of State (DoS) Report**
**February 1, 2010**

The Department of State (DoS) spreadsheet entries reporting the status of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for projects/activities funded under Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) through December 31, 2009. The following updates have occurred since the last submittal:

- An additional $106 million has been obligated, bringing total obligations to over $230 million.

- We have completed cultural resources and environmental permit requirements for four (4) International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) projects:

    1. Rio Grande Flood Control Mission Levee (Row #9 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet)

    2. Rio Grande Flood Control Donna-Brownsville Levee (Row #10 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet)

    3. Rio Grande Flood Control Canalization segment (Row #14 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet)

    4. Rio Grande Flood Control Improvements to the Rio Grande Rectification Project-El Paso & Hudspeth Counties, TX (Row #15 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet)

- The Environmental Assessment for the Hard Skills Training Center (Row #2 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet) remains in a pending status. This action has been pending for more than one report. On November 30, 2009, a preferred site for the Hard Skills Training Center was identified. Once the proposals were identified and available for environmental review, development of the Environmental Assessment and associated analysis began.

- The Categorical Exclusion for the Data Center that will be located within the General Services Administration's (GSA's) Denver Federal Center (Row #4 on Page 2 of the spreadsheet) remains in a pending status as well. This action has been pending for more than one report. This Categorical Exclusion, being prepared in accordance with GSA's NEPA guidance, was forwarded to the GSA legal office on January 15, 2010 for final review and clearance.

Following is an example of benefits gained as a result of the NEPA process:

<u>Name of the Project/Activity:</u> Improvements to the Arroyo Colorado Floodway in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties (State Spreadsheet, Page 2, Row 17)

Level of NEPA Action: Environmental Assessment

Value added by the NEPA Process: The NEPA process allowed the U.S. Section to provide information to the community on potential impacts to cultural resources in the affected area.

Description of the Project and how it benefited from the NEPA action: The project includes the improvements to the existing flood control levee system in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. The U.S. Section intends to raise the levees to allow for adequate protection of a 100 year flood event. The NEPA process allowed the US Section to involve the surrounding community and stakeholders in an evaluation of potential impacts that may occur to cultural resources in the project area.

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