

**Attachment 22A**

**Explanatory Note for National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Report  
November 2, 2009**

Since the last report of ARRA NEPA status and progress was submitted, the NEA has obligated an additional \$29,875,000, bringing NEA's total ARRA obligations to \$49,675,000. It is anticipated that the remaining \$200,000 of the ARRA appropriation will be obligated by the next report.

While the NEA's total ARRA appropriation of \$50,000,000 was previously reported, \$125,000 is allocated to salaries and expenses. Consequently, the total appropriation reported for grants is \$49,875,000.

The NEA established, in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), a protocol for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements that allows for the use of categorical exclusions (CEs). The ARRA grants covered by this CE focus on the preservation of jobs in the arts (salary support, full or partial, for one or more positions, including support for contracted positions) and represent projects and activities that have been determined not to have individual or cumulative significant effects on the human environment. Consequently, the appropriate and most expeditious level of NEPA analysis and review is a CE rather than preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement. The protocol applies to grants awarded with ARRA funds by the NEA. The NEA has completed its NEPA review for projects and activities funded through September 30<sup>th</sup> and the absence of extraordinary circumstances, and the use of the CEs has been approved by the agency's Acting Chairman.

Because all NEA ARRA grants are for the same category of activity and comply with NEPA in the same way, they are being reported as a group.

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