



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

November 5, 2010

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Chairman, Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Hastings
Ranking Member, Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall and Ranking Member Hastings:

I respectfully submit the seventh 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 September 30, 2010. The fifteen Departments and nine Independent Agencies reported to 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 continue to demonstrate that we can contribute to our nation's economic health while respecting the health of our environment. No department or agency reported instances of substantial delays related to NEPA reviews. As of September 30, 2010, more than 98 percent of NEPA actions have been completed and the rest are underway. Agencies will continue to identify the need for some additional NEPA actions as Recovery Act funding applications are reviewed and projects are developed, and these will be reflected in future reports.

The report shows that departments and agencies completed more than 186,600 NEPA reviews. Nearly 179,500 Categorical Exclusions (CEs) were completed. The CE's 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 nearly 6,400 Environmental Assessments (EAs) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). They also reported analyzing more than 820 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 completed NEPA reviews, 800 NEPA reviews are reported to be underway, including more than 290 CEs, approximately 470 EAs, and approximately 40 EISs. The number of NEPA reviews underway has decreased by more than half since the previous report.

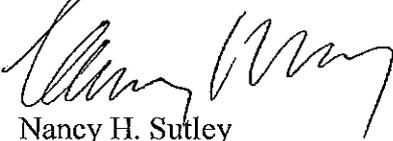
Several agencies are using programmatic NEPA reviews to address similar projects or activities. This facilitates implementation of individual projects or activities by addressing common environmental issues programmatically, eliminating the need to replicate review of those issues in subsequent or site-specific analyses.

This report also provides 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 approximately \$293 billion in Recovery Act funds available, an increase of more than \$50 billion since the previous report. 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 next quarterly report will be submitted in February 2011.

Sincerely,



Nancy H. Sutley
Chair