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Comptroller General
of the United States

United States General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

GAO STATEMENT CONCERNING LITIGATION

FEBRUARY 22, 2002

Today, the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) filed suit in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. to obtain certain records in connection with the National Energy Policy Development Group (NEPDG). This is the first time that GAO has filed suit against a federal official in connection with a records access issue. We take this step reluctantly. Nevertheless, given GAO's responsibility to Congress and the American people, we have no other choice. Our repeated attempts to reach a reasonable accommodation on this matter have not been successful. Now that the matter has been submitted to the judicial branch, we are hopeful that the litigation will be resolved expeditiously.