



**UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE (GAO)
STATEMENT ON
THE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
September 7, 2001**

On August 17, 2001, GAO issued a statutory report to the Congress, President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and other executive branch officials concerning GAO's efforts to obtain access to certain information in connection with the National Energy Policy Development Group. On September 6, GAO received a limited amount of information from the Vice President's office in response to the statutory report. The information received is clearly inadequate in light of GAO's request and GAO has not received a certification letter from the President or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in connection with the balance of the information requested.

According to Comptroller General of the United States David M. Walker, "This is a very serious matter with significant potential implications for GAO, the Congress and the American people. It involves several fundamental good government principles, including the right of the Congress to oversee the executive branch, and the need for transparency and accountability in connection with the development and execution of federal government policies that can affect the lives of every American. We are finalizing our discussions with key Congressional leaders and are preparing for possible litigation."