



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

December 6, 2005

Mr. Juan J. Reyes  
Director, Office of Safety and Environmental Programs  
Administrative Services  
Under Secretary for Management  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528  
(sent via fax: (202) 772-9749)

Subject: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Alternative Arrangements for  
Rebuilding New Orleans Metropolitan Area (NOMA)

Dear Mr. Reyes:

The attached alternative arrangements prepared in consultation among the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) culminate a period of intense discussion and work to develop a practical and timely process for handling the expected grant applications. CEQ appreciates the early and frequent coordination with your office and the FEMA environmental support staff in preparing these alternative arrangements in accordance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations (40 C.F.R. § 1506.11).

We are ready to assist DHS and FEMA with preparing the Federal Register notice announcing these alternative arrangements and requesting further public input throughout their application. CEQ also appreciates DHS commitment to advise us of the NOMA alternative arrangements web site URL as soon as it is operational and of the applications as they arrive. In order to ensure effective and productive application of these alternative arrangements, we also stand ready to engage in timely and productive quarterly reviews with DHS and FEMA.

Sincerely,

Horst G. Greczmiel  
Associate Director for NEPA Oversight

cc: Mr. Don Bathurst, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of Under Secretary for Management, DHS  
Mr. David Reese, Environmental Planning Program Manager, DHS  
Mr. Brent Paul, Environmental Officer, FEMA