



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

February 1, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe
Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer and Ranking Member Inhofe:

I respectfully submit the eighth 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 December 31, 2010. The fifteen Departments and nine Independent Agencies reported to the Council on Environmental Quality (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. Once again, as of December 31, 2010, more than 98 percent of NEPA actions have been completed. Agencies continue to complete the NEPA reviews that are underway and expect the number of additional new NEPA actions and new Recovery Act projects and activities to diminish as the departments and agencies enter the final year of Recovery Act reporting.

The report shows that departments and agencies completed more than 188,300 NEPA reviews. More than 180,000 Categorical Exclusions (CE) were completed. The CEs 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 more than 6,600 Environmental Assessments (EA) with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). They also reported analyzing more than 830 projects or activities in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) where the NEPA review was completed with a Record of Decision (ROD).

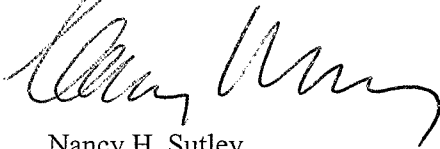
In addition to the completed NEPA reviews, only approximately 590 NEPA reviews are still underway. NEPA reviews still underway include approximately 190 CEs, approximately 360 EAs, and approximately 35 EISs.

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 more than \$286.7 billion in Recovery Act funds available, an increase of approximately \$9.7 billion since the previous reporting period.¹ 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 May 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy H. Sutley", written in a cursive style.

Nancy H. Sutley
Chair

¹ The previous report should have included obligations of more than \$277 billion reflecting an increase of more than \$34 billion, rather than an increase of more than \$50 billion.