
From: Jennie Rambo [tortoise@imap2.asu.edu]
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2004 5:52 PM
To: ADMIN-S&E
Subject: Don't undermine NEPA protections

August 09, 2004

Department of Homeland Security
Environmental Planning, Office of Safety and Environment Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Ridge and Homeland Security staff,

I oppose the Department of Homeland Security's current proposal for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. The proposal would allow too many exclusions from NEPA and could close off government activities that have previously operated in the public eye.

Some proposed categorical exclusions, such as logging and disposal of waste and hazardous material, should be completely abandoned, while many other items should be narrowed in scope.

The breadth of the undefined categories of information that would be withheld from public view is unwarranted for protecting national security.

The proposal goes well beyond what is necessary to protect national security, and risks destroying the very democratic ideals that the Department of Homeland Security was allegedly created to protect. I urge you to limit the use of categorical exclusions and the withholding of information as narrowly as possible.

Sincerely,

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