Web Publishing

From: Goetz, Lisa D SOPUS
Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 2004 5:06 PM
To: ADMIN-S&E
Subject: Proposed Bush Adminstration Directive for carrying out NEPA

I am opposed to the Bush Administration's proposed directive for carrying out the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that would grant broad environmental exemptions to numerous government agencies under the guise of national security. These directives would also exclude the American public from decisions that can have long-term health and environmental consequences -- decisions that they have a right to know about.

Such exclusions would enable agencies to conduct activities in secret that could have serious implications for public safety - such as using or storing hazardous chemicals in close proximity to residential areas and schools without letting citizens know about their risk of exposure.

The directive would also allow the degradation of public resources -- such as the building of new roads through national forests for use by the Border Patrol -- with no input from the public whatsoever. While these agencies would still have to conduct environmental reviews before taking action, those reviews would not be subject to public scrutiny or public comment.

Any environmental exemptions should be narrowly defined and should be open to public scrutiny and public comment.

Lisa Goetz