

March 23, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security,
3901 Nebraska Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20528

Re: Department of Homeland Security NEPA Procedures

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

Thank you for forwarding the Department of Homeland Security Management Directive establishing the Department's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The CEQ regulations provide that agencies develop their NEPA policies and procedures in consultation with CEQ to ensure full compliance with the purposes and provisions of NEPA (40 C.F.R. § 1507.3).

CEQ has completed its review of the Management Directive which includes revisions based upon our discussions and consideration of the public comments. The draft Management Directive was published in the Federal Register June 14, 2004.

The Department of Homeland Security Management Directive establishes a solid basis for integrating environmental considerations into your mission planning and project decision making.

Based on this review, CEQ concludes that the Department of Homeland Security NEPA Management Directive is in conformance with NEPA and the CEQ regulations. The Management Directive will take effect once it is published in final form in the Federal Register (attachment).

Sincerely,

James L. Connaughton

cc: Philip J. Perry, General Counsel