From: P. Jean Kincaid I

Sent: Saturday, August 07, 2004 11:44 AM

To: ADMIN-S&E

Subject: Don't undermine NEPA protections

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 wou allow too many exclusions form NEPA and could close off govenment activities that have previously operated in the public eye.

The public has a right to know what the activities of the government are in relation to the environment and how those activities will affect the environment. The department's proposal would impede that right with its overly broad use of categorical exclusions. The public is supposidly the government's guide and watchdog, thru groups with common causes. Without these watchdog groups, the government could do as it pleases, when it pleases, and how it pleases. To remain a democracy, the rights of the public must be maintained, so please limit the use of categorical exclusions and the withholding of information to as narrow a definition as possible.

Sincerely,

P.jean Kincaid