



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

WHITE HOUSE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON ENERGY

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
 MANAGEMENT FUND CHARTER

A. IDENTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT FUND PROJECT

The Office of Environmental Quality, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 4375 and Executive Order 13212, hereby establishes the White House Interagency Task Force on Energy (hereinafter, the "Task Force"). In Executive Order 13212, the President has found that the increased production and transmission of energy in a safe and environmentally sound manner is essential to the well-being of the American people. By that Executive Order, the President established the Administration policy that executive departments and agencies shall take appropriate actions, to the extent consistent with applicable law, to expedite projects that will increase the production, transmission, or conservation of energy.

This Task Force is established to monitor and assist all Federal agencies in their efforts to implement Executive Order 13212, to expedite their review of permits or similar actions, as necessary, to accelerate the completion of energy-related projects, to increase energy production and conservation, and to improve transmission of energy. The Task Force shall monitor and assist these agencies in setting up appropriate mechanisms to coordinate Federal, State, tribal and local permitting in geographic areas where increased permitting activity is expected.

B. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

Authority for this project exists in Sections 101 and 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act; 42 U.S.C. §§ 4331, 4332; Section 206 of the Environmental Quality Improvement Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4375; Section 602 of the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1535; and the authorizing legislation of the participating agencies.

The Council on Environmental Quality was established by Title II of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The primary role of CEQ is to implement the policy goals set forth in NEPA. These include: (1) fulfilling the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations; (2) assuring for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings; (3) attaining the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences; (4) preserving important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintaining, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice; (5) achieving a balance between population and resource use

which will permit high standards of living and wide sharing of life's amenities; and (6) enhancing the quality of renewable resources and approaching the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources. 42 U.S.C. § 4331. The Environmental Quality Improvement Act established the Office of Environmental Quality to provide professional and administrative support to the Council on Environmental Quality; to promote the advancement of scientific knowledge of environmental effects; to assist in coordinating among the Federal departments and agencies programs and activities which affect, protect, and improve environmental quality; and to assist Federal departments and agencies in development and interrelationship of environmental quality criteria and standards established throughout the Federal Government. 42 U.S.C. § 4372. This Task Force will promote these goals and purposes of the Office of Environmental Quality and NEPA.

The Task Force will:

- Coordinate inter-agency activities to accelerate the completion of energy-related projects;
- Coordinate inter-agency activities to increase energy production and conservation;
- Coordinate inter-agency activities to improve transmission of energy;
- Coordinate inter-agency activities to establish mechanisms to coordinate permitting in geographic areas where increased permitting activity is expected;
- Participate in the development of policies and outreach activities to ensure effective coordination with the National Energy Policy; and
- Periodically report to the President and Vice President regarding the goals, activities and accomplishments of the Task Force.

The specific tasks undertaken by the Task Force will be assigned by the Chair. These tasks will be designed and managed to achieve the goals adopted by the Task Force.

C. Financial Plan

The Task Force anticipates an operating budget of \$250,000 for FY 2002 with funding from participating agencies through the Office of Environmental Quality Management Fund. Funds provided from participating agencies shall be appropriate for use in the publication of reports, contracting for research, public outreach, or workshops.

D. Participating Agencies

The Task Force shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality and shall be composed of representatives from the Federal agencies identified in Executive Order 13212 and such other representatives as determined to be necessary by the Chairman. The participating agencies are, at a

minimum: the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, Justice, State, the Treasury, Transportation and Veterans Affairs; the Central Intelligence Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, the General Services Administration and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In addition to the Council on Environmental Quality, the offices and agencies encompassed within the Executive Office of the President shall participate as needed, including the Domestic Policy Council, the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget, the National Economic Council, and White House Legislative Affairs.

E. Staffing Arrangements

The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality shall serve as Chair of the Task Force and may assign duties and responsibilities to staff of the Council on Environmental Quality and representatives of the participating agencies. The Task Force shall be staffed by employees of the Council on Environmental Quality and the participating agencies. The staff of the Task Force shall remain subject to the authorities and requirements of their employer agencies. The Task Force is not an agency of the United States for purposes of 5 U.S.C. §§ 551-706.

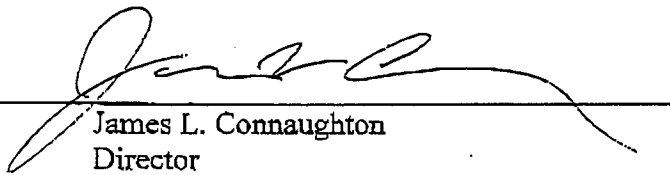
The Chief Project Officer for the Task Force is Virginia Stephens, Council on Environmental Quality, (202) 395-0801. The Administrative Contact for the Task Force is Philip A. Cooney, Chief of Staff, CEQ, (202) 456-6224. Administrative support for the Task Force shall be provided by the Department of Energy pursuant to Executive Order 13212 and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Task Force and the Department of Energy.

F. Terms and Duration of the Task Force

The Energy Task Force is chartered for the period of September 5, 2001 through September 30, 2002. This charter shall expire upon September 30, 2002, unless amended.

APPROVED:

9/7/01
Date


James L. Connaughton
Director
Office of Environmental Quality