



CHAIRMAN

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: RAYMOND DUBOIS
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FROM: JAMES L. CONNAUGHTON *JLC*

DATE: August 20, 2002

SUBJECT: INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS FOR INTERSTATE NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

Attached is the final Interagency Agreement on Early Coordination of Required Environmental and Historic Preservation Reviews Conducted in Conjunction with the Issuance of Authorizations to Construct and Operate Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines Certificated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which has now been signed by each of the Agencies committed to the Agreement: the Army, Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, Transportation, Energy, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and Council for Environmental Quality (the "Participating Agencies"). As you know, the White House Task Force for Energy Project Streamlining (the "Task Force") worked closely with senior staff from all of the Participating Agencies to reach consensus on this initiative.

This agreement is consistent with the goals of the National Energy Policy and Presidential Executive Order 13212. Additionally, it accomplishes an objective that has long been identified as a priority by Congress, individual agencies and the energy industry.

Through the Agreement, the Agencies agree to early communication and, without surrendering any of their statutory responsibility or jurisdiction, cooperate with the FERC as the lead agency and with each other to coordinate schedules, identify concerns, share data, coordinate requests for additional information, and cooperate in developing alternative routes/actions and mitigation measures. The result will be a more efficient use of time and resources, as well as more satisfied project

proponents, agencies, stakeholders, and public. Although FERC will be primarily responsible for implementation, it is important that each Participating Agency develop an internal implementation strategy to ensure its practices and actions of its personnel lead to the success of the agreement. The Task Force staff recommends that your agency solicit implementation ideas from your field or regional office staff.

The Task Force has developed a draft implementation plan for your consideration. The draft plan contemplates establishing an interagency committee to monitor and ensure implementation. I will be convening a deputies meeting soon to discuss this further and get your feedback. At that point, we may suggest that FERC call an initial working meeting to consider the establishment of a committee as contemplated by the Implementation Plan. If you have comments, questions or suggestions prior to that, please contact Veronica Angulo at 202 586-3464 or Veronica.Angulo@hq.doe.gov.

Thank you for your support in making this important agreement a reality. Your staff has been instrumental and should be commended.

Enclosures

cc: Deb Atwood, Department of Agriculture
Dominic Izzo, Department of the Army
James Cason, Department of the Interior
Jimmy Glotfelty, Department of Energy
Sloan Rappoport, Department of Commerce
Martin Whitmer, Department of Transportation
Claudia McMurray, Environmental Protection Agency
Dinah Bear, Council on Environmental Quality
Don Klima, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Alison Silverstein, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission