
From:

Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:58 PM
To: FN-CEQ-GCC.Guidance
Subject: We Can't Ignore Climate Change Impacts

May 24, 2010

Chairwoman Nancy Sutley

Dear Chairwoman Sutley,

We can't fight global warming blindfolded. As the climate crisis intensifies, federal agencies must carefully weigh the global warming impact of the decisions they make, including the permits they issue and the projects they authorize. I strongly support your efforts to issue comprehensive guidance making it clear that the National Environmental Policy Act requires rigorous and transparent analysis of climate issues. Agencies need to analyze both the impacts on climate change -- such as the emissions from a new highway or power plant -- and the impacts of climate change on projects such as rising seas that could sweep away coastal infrastructure -- for the projects they work on. It's time to recognize that even relatively small emissions sources contribute to this global problem, and to consider and disclose the cumulative impacts of agency actions.

Troublingly though, your guidance suggests that land managers do not need to analyze the impacts of their actions on climate change. This loophole needs to be closed. Land management decisions -- from cutting forests to plowing prairies -- have major climate impacts which must be considered if we are going to make good choices. I urge you to close that gap and move forward with strong climate guidance.

Sincerely,