The environmental impacts of their proposed actions before acting. Additionally, NEPA emphasizes public involvement in government actions affecting the environment by requiring that the benefits and the risks associated with proposed actions be assessed and publicly disclosed.

CEQ, which is charged with implementing NEPA, recognizes that it is a visionary and versatile law that can be used effectively to address new environmental challenges facing our Nation and also to engage the public widely and effectively. Furthermore, CEQ wants to develop more effective and accessible tools for citizen involvement in government decision-making. These actions are designed to provide carefully-tailored new assessment and reporting requirements, facilitate agency compliance with NEPA, and enhance the quality of public involvement in governmental decisions relating to the environment.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before April 9, 2010.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted Boling, Senior Counsel, at (202) 395–5750.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Many Federal actions do not have significant effects on the environment. When these actions fall into broad categories of activities, agencies may apply a “categorical exclusion” from further NEPA review. This draft guidance clarifies the rules for categorical exclusions and ensures that there is a concise public record when agencies apply them. While CEQ previously has sought public comments on this matter, this guidance provides additional clarifications, so it will seek additional public comment for 45 days. Draft guidance documents are now available at the Council on Environmental Quality Web site at http://www.nepact.gov.

Public comments are requested on or before April 9, 2010.
February 18, 2010.
Nancy Sutley,
Chair, Council on Environmental Quality.
[FR Doc. 2010–3531 Filed 2–22–10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3125–WW–P

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

National Environmental Policy Act
(NEPA) Draft Guidance, “Consideration
of the Effects of Climate Change and
Greenhouse Gas Emissions.”

AGENCY: Council On Environmental Quality.

ACTION: Notice of Availability, Draft
Guidance, “Consideration of the Effects
of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas
Emissions.”

SUMMARY: On February 18, 2010, the
Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) announced four steps to
modernize, reinvigorate, and ease the
use and increase the transparency of
implementation of the National
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Enacted in 1970, NEPA is a fundamental
tool used to harmonize our economic,
environmental, and social aspirations
and is a cornerstone of our Nation’s
efforts to protect the environment.

CEQ recognizes that many Federal
activities affect the environment and
mandates that Federal agencies consider
the environmental impacts of their
proposed actions before acting.

Additionally, NEPA emphasizes public
involvement in government actions
affecting the environment by requiring
that the benefits and the risks associated
with proposed actions be assessed and
publicly disclosed.

CEQ, which is charged with
implementing NEPA, recognizes that it
is a visionary and versatile law that can
be used effectively to address new
environmental challenges facing our
nation and also to engage the public
widely and effectively. Furthermore,
CEQ wants to develop more effective
and accessible tools for citizen
involvement in government decision-
making. These actions are designed to
provide carefully-tailored new
assessment and reporting requirements,
facilitate agency compliance with
NEPA, and enhance the quality of
public involvement in governmental
decisions relating to the environment.

DATES: Comments should be submitted
on or before May 24, 2010.

ADDRESSES: The NEPA Draft Guidance
documents are available at http://
www.nepa.gov. Comments on the NEPA
Draft Guidance “Consideration of the
Effects of Climate Change and
Greenhouse Gas Emissions” should be
submitted electronically to
GCC.guide@ceq.eop.gov, or in
writing to The Council on
Environmental Quality, Attn: Ted
Boling, 722 Jackson Place, NW.,
Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted
Boling, Senior Counsel, at (202) 395–
5750.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CEQ is
issuing draft guidance for public
comment on when and how Federal
agencies must consider the impacts of
proposed Federal actions on global
climate change, as well as the expected
environmental effects from climate
change that may be relevant to the
design of the proposed Federal action.

CEQ has been asked to provide guidance
on this subject informally by Federal
agencies and formally by a petition
under the Administrative Procedure
Act. The draft guidance explains how
Federal agencies should analyze the
environmental impacts of greenhouse
gas emissions and climate change when
they describe the environmental
impacts of a proposed action under
NEPA by (1) providing practical tools
for agency reporting, including a
presumptive threshold of 25,000 metric
tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
emissions from the proposed action to
trigger consideration of a quantitative
analysis, and (2) suggestions to agencies
on how to assess the effects of climate
change on the proposed action, and, in
turn, on the design of agency actions.

CEQ will seek public comment on this
guidance for 90 days. Draft guidance
documents are now available at the
Council on Environmental Quality Web

Public comments are requested on or
before May 24, 2010.

February 18, 2010.
Nancy Sutley,
Chair, Council on Environmental Quality.
[FR Doc. 2010–3532 Filed 2–22–10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3125–WW–P

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

National Environmental Policy Act
(NEPA) Draft Guidance, “NEPA
Mitigation and Monitoring.”

AGENCY: Council On Environmental Quality.

ACTION: Notice of Availability, Draft
Guidance, “NEPA Mitigation and
Monitoring.”

SUMMARY: On February 18, 2010, the
Council on Environmental Quality
(CEQ) announced four steps to
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facilitate agency compliance with
NEPA, and enhance the quality of
public involvement in governmental
decisions relating to the environment.

DATES: Comments should be submitted
on or before May 24, 2010.

ADDRESSES: The NEPA Draft Guidance
documents are available at http://
www.nepa.gov. Comments on the NEPA
Draft Guidance “Consideration of the
Effects of Climate Change and
Greenhouse Gas Emissions” should be
submitted electronically to
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Environmental Quality, Attn: Ted
Boling, 722 Jackson Place, NW.,
Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ted
Boling, Senior Counsel, at (202) 395–
5750.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Draft
Guidance Clarifying (1) the
Appropriateness of “Findings of No
Significant Impact” and (2) Specifying
the Need for Ongoing Monitoring of
Environmental Mitigation
Commitments: Many Federal actions
receive an environmental review,
known as an Environmental
Assessment. In those instances, NEPA
compliance is usually completed with a
“Finding of No Significant Impact”
(FONSI) on the environment and a more