

Quote Sheet for Interim Final Rule on NEPA

“Americans have the right to comment on projects that affect the safety of their communities and their quality of life. Repealing this one unified rule that applies to all 80-some federal agencies has nothing to do with efficiency and everything to do with sowing confusion. It is a lose-lose proposition: It will increase the cost of doing business while decreasing protections for wildlife and the public.” - **Abby Tinsley, Vice President of Conservation Policy for the National Wildlife Federation** (contact info: mccormick@nwf.org, 512-610-7765)

“People deserve the right to have a voice on federal projects that will impact the environment and human health. For decades, NEPA has provided opportunities for that public participation. This administration’s requirement that each of the 70+ federal agencies set their own NEPA rules is extremely inefficient and confusing for all involved. Shutting out the public under the guise of efficiency is harmful to the environment and disrespectful to the American people.” -**Barbara Vasquez, Board Chair, Western Organization of Resource Councils** (contact info: shunkins@worc.org 334-467-2050)

“For over 50 years, NEPA has protected landowners like me who rely on federal agencies to provide baseline data and environmental analysis that help protect our communities. Without strong federal environmental protections, communities and landowners like me will be left with more questions than answers as we wait to see how each federal agency decides to interpret the law.”- **Terry Punt, Member of Northern Plains Resource Council** (contact info:shunkins@worc.org 334-467-2050)

“NEPA review is one of the few avenues through which tribal members have a voice in major federal actions on reservations. There are no requirements around meaningful consultation with tribes under this administration’s proposed changes. Rolling back meaningful tribal consultation requirements is highly concerning and unacceptable.” -**Lisa DeVille, Fort Berthold POWER and Dakota Resource Council** (contact info: shunkins@worc.org 334-467-2050)

“The Trump administration is racing to weaken protections meant to keep communities safe and healthy in an attempt to grease the wheels for the president’s corporate polluter friends. Gutting NEPA will limit Americans’ ability to have a voice in what happens in their communities, and will create more chaos and uncertainty in the process to build new infrastructure. We will continue to fight back against this administration’s dangerous attacks on our bedrock environmental protections.” – **Sierra Club Senior Attorney Nathaniel Shoaff**

“For decades, Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities have borne the brunt of environmental hazards, breathing in polluted air, living near toxic waste, and facing the worst effects of climate change. NEPA has served as a key tool for advocates to combat these

injustices. Rolling back NEPA's regulations is an outright attack on communities of color. LatinoJustice demands that the Administration withdraw these changes and uphold its responsibility to protect all of our communities." - **said Lourdes M. Rosado, President and General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF (media@latinojustice.org)**

"While the Trump administration's interim rule does nothing to change the fact that the bedrock NEPA statute must still be followed, it eliminates longstanding guidance that will only amplify confusion about how agencies should apply it. This chaos will not only slow good projects down—the opposite of the administration's intended purpose—it will hurt communities the most who depend on NEPA to learn about major projects that impact them and to voice their concerns." – **Kym Meyer, Litigation Director for the Southern Environmental Law Center**

"Repealing the regulatory framework that has provided a consistent means of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act for more than fifty years is a recipe for chaos, undrinkable water, unbreathable air, the irreparable loss of cultural resources, and disenfranchisement of all Americans who have an interest in the transparent decisionmaking of the federal government. At a time when we need federal agencies focused on wildfire risk reduction, community protection, and mitigation of the effects of climate change, CEQ has abdicated its oversight responsibilities conferred by Congress. The Trump administration's actions are disgraceful and dangerous." - **Susan Jane Brown, Principal & Chief Legal Counsel, Silvix Resources (sjb@silvix.org; 503-680-5513)**

"The Trump administration is turning its back on people and the environment that sustains us all. We will not give up the fight for a transparent, science-based decision-making process centering meaningful public engagement and consideration of all impacts to our wildlands, communities, and climate, as NEPA requires." - **Ronni Flannery, Senior Staff Attorney at The Wilderness Society.**

"Environmental justice responsibilities under NEPA exist regardless of Administration. They stem from Congress and judicial opinion, not from executive order. EPA planning and implementation documents under both Democratic and Republican Presidents make this clear. As residents of overburdened communities have made clear hundreds of times, agencies can't carefully consider the consequences of their actions with incomplete or cursory – let alone nonexistent – evidence, including the social and economic impacts that result from physical changes to the human environment." - **Gregg Macey, Director, Center for Land, Environment & Natural Resources, UC Irvine.**

"NEPA is the bedrock of environmental protection and public accountability in federal decision-making. These regulations bring clarity and certainty across agencies and ensure that climate change and environmental justice are part of the review process for major projects with far-reaching impacts. Eliminating them won't speed things up; it will create confusion, delay, and

reduce transparency. Communities already suffering from pollution and climate threats deserve more voice in federal decisions, not less. This rollback would be a step backward for environmental justice, climate action, and good governance." - **Alexandra Adams, Chief Policy Advocacy Officer, Natural Resources Defense Council**

"The Trump administration's decision to eliminate CEQ's longstanding framework for NEPA reviews will only generate confusion, delay, and further litigation. That will come at the expense of the environment, public health, and common sense. If the administration truly cares about efficiency, transparency, and the American public, it will abandon its interim final rule." - **Howard Learner, Executive Director & CEO, Environmental Law & Policy Center**

"By removing the National Environmental Policy Act's implementing regulations, CEQ and the Trump administration are replacing research and scientific expertise with uncertainty and recklessness. The American public relies on NEPA for transparency about how government decisions affect the environment, and to ensure public participation so that Federal agencies make informed and thoughtful choices. Without a consistent application of NEPA to assess the effects of projects on our land, water and air, the government will ignore science, and wildlife and habitats will face indiscriminate destruction." -**Robert Dewey, Vice President, Government Relations, Defenders of Wildlife**

"NEPA is the most central, foundational, and bipartisan law that empowers our communities to protect ourselves and the environment we depend on to live from deadly damage. The reality is Black, Brown, and low-income people experience greater exposure from pollution in our neighborhoods, leading to dirty air, undrinkable water, and poison in our soil. The recent rule by the Trump administration to weaken NEPA willfully ignores the shameful reality of environmental racism, and instead makes sure that environmental justice impacts and cumulative effects will not be addressed. Protecting NEPA is a critical effort to safeguard our communities and the environment we rely on. We vehemently oppose the Administration's actions to weaken this rule, and continue to stress that NEPA's core tenants must be upheld. - **Leslie Fields, Chief Federal Officer, WE ACT for Environmental Justice**

"The weakening of NEPA protections will hurt communities and their right to a safe and healthy environment. Latine, communities of color, and low-income communities already bear the brunt of pollution and climate change. Weakening NEPA removes one of the only tools communities have to hold the government and corporations accountable for environmental and public health harm. This shameful action by the Trump Administration prioritizes polluters over people and will undoubtedly deepen the disproportionate harm our communities face every day. We stand with our communities and will do everything to continue fighting against these harmful actions" - **Irene Burga, Climate Justice & Clean Air Program Director, GreenLatinos.**

“In a move that would undo decades of hard-fought gains for people and the planet, the Trump administration is attempting to cancel the overarching regulations for implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This is a direct attack on the rights of every community in the country to have their voices heard on projects and federal government decisions that affect our communities and environment. Trump’s Interim Final Rule would threaten clean air and water, environmental justice, a safe climate, and public engagement and right to know about potentially damaging projects, while also sowing uncertainty and chaos that can delay good projects, too,” said **LCV’s Vice President of Federal Policy, Matthew Davis.** (mdavis2@lcv.org, 617-529-5855)

“Since they were issued in 1978, the Council on Environmental Quality’s regulations have provided a framework for implementing NEPA that over 80 federal agencies, project sponsors, environmental consultants, NGOs, and impacted communities have relied on,” said **Johanna Hamburger, director and senior attorney of the Animal Welfare Institute’s Terrestrial Wildlife Program.** “The complete revocation of these longstanding regulations, coupled with the requirement that federal agencies develop their own implementing regulations, introduces profound uncertainty into NEPA’s environmental review process for proposed development projects. This could have a devastating impact on wildlife, habitat, and frontline communities. Rather than achieving CEQ’s stated goal of improving project delivery times and increasing efficiency, this move will result in more litigation, greater delays for project approvals, and increased costs.”

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