



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

December 14, 2015

The Honorable James Inhofe
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6175

Dear Chairman Inhofe:

I write in response to your letter dated November 20, 2015, regarding the management, activities, and operation of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). I understand that you have also written to the President regarding the same issues.

We have taken steps to comply with all applicable requirements. When Congress established CEQ under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), it empowered CEQ to "employ such officers and employees as may be necessary to carry out its functions under th[e] Act." 42 U.S.C. § 4343. After Nancy Sutley, the former CEQ Chair, resigned in February 2014, senior CEQ officials had appropriate authority to operate.

CEQ has continued to develop and provide guidance, based on longstanding CEQ regulations, to assist agencies in approaching their responsibilities under NEPA. CEQ also has continued to provide guidance to agencies consistent with Presidential directives. All documents referenced in your letter have been properly issued on behalf of, or in coordination with, CEQ. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,



Christy Goldfuss
Managing Director

cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer,
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate