


5 January 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Council on Environmental Quality Briefing on
Proposed Revised Environmental Impact Statement
Regulations

1. I attended a briefing in the New Executive Office Building on 20 December 1977, at which time the General Counsel of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) presented the rationale for the regulations proposed by the CEQ as replacement for the existing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines. A draft of these regulations has been forwarded to the heads of agencies on 12 December 1977 requesting comment by the 23rd of January 1978.
2. The format of the regulations was changed to include a table of contents, a glossary of terms, and an index. The intent of the overall effort was to meet the Presidential directive to simplify the environmental assessment and impact statement procedure; to standardize it; to reduce the amount of effort required to comply with the procedures; and to reduce the time it takes to process Environmental Impact Statements.
3. Counsel for CEQ went through the major paragraphs in the draft giving information on what changes were made and why.
4. The subject of application of the NEPA and the Environmental Assessment and Impact Statement process overseas was referred to only in connection with a planned meeting in the near future with representatives of DOD and other agencies having "overseas interests." It was indicated that an invitation would be issued to such a meeting sometime in the near future with an aim toward cooperatively developing a policy for overseas projects. (This invitation for a meeting on 6 January 1978 has now been received.)


Chief /
Field Engineering Branch, OL STATINTL

cc: AGC

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