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Committee on Natural Resources
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May 14, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Sutley
Chair
White House Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Chairwoman Sutley:

To assist the Committee on Natural Resources in carrying out its oversight responsibilities related to the *Deepwater Horizon* incident, we request that you promptly provide to the Committee all documents from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) related to the inclusion of categorical exclusions (C)(10) (approval of an exploration plan, development/production plan, or Development Operation Coordination Document) and (C)(12) (approval of an Application for Permit to Drill) into Part 516, Chapter 15 of the Department of the Interior Departmental Handbook (516 DM 15), including any analyses that were conducted by CEQ to justify the inclusion of these items onto the categorical exclusion list, and all correspondence with the Department of the Interior regarding the inclusion of these categorical exclusions.

Please produce the requested information in a timely fashion and prior to the May 26, 2010, Committee on Natural Resources hearing on "*Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Strategy and Implications of the Deepwater Horizon Rig Explosion.*"

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Deborah Lanzone, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at 202-225-9297.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



Nick J. Rahall, II
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources