



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

FEB 3 2008

Memorandum

To: Office of Management and Budget
White House Council on Environmental Quality

Through: Paul Hoffman, *Paul Hoff*
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Capital, Performance, and Partnerships

From: Elena Gonzalez, *Elena Gonzalez*
Director, Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution, and
Shayla Simmons, *Shayla Simmons*
Senior Counsel for Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution

Subject: 2007 Department of the Interior Report on Environmental Conflict Resolution

Enclosed is the Department of the Interior (DOI) 2007 Report on Environmental Conflict Resolution (ECR), jointly prepared by the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and the Senior Counsel for CADR, for submission by Paul Hoffman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Capital, Performance, and Partnerships, the designated ECR point of contact for DOI under the OMB-CEQ ECR Policy Memorandum.

The information contained in this report was collected by the CADR office from the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Solicitor (SOL), and DOI's nine Bureaus: the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the National Park Service (NPS), the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The Office of the Secretary includes DOI's Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) and the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC).

This report reflects DOI's continued use of ECR and collaborative problem-solving processes to engage stakeholders in order to achieve sustainable solutions for accomplishing DOI missions and program goals in 2007. It also reflects that DOI is improving its ability to capture relevant information on the use of ECR and collaborative problem-solving processes in all areas of DOI. The data collected indicates that DOI bureaus participated in at least 35-45 ECR processes during fiscal year 2007.

The DOI is establishing an institutional culture of cooperative conservation and the use of ECR. The new DOI Strategic Plan 2007-2012 includes two collaborative action performance measures:

- *Cooperative Conservation Internal Capacity*: Percent of organizations that have trained and developed employees in collaboration and partnering competencies
- *Cooperative Conservation External Capacity*: Percent of conservation projects that actively involve the use of knowledge and skills of people in the area, and local resources in priority setting, planning, and implementation processes.

In addition, bureaus have increased the institutional capacity to support ECR by, among other things, including performance elements on collaboration and conflict management in annual employee performance plans, and providing training for managers and attorneys to support the appropriate and effective use of ECR. DOI continues to use ECR in a wide variety of program areas and circumstances ranging from early collaborative planning processes and negotiated rulemaking efforts to the negotiated settlement of matters in adjudication, and including a variety of natural resource and environmental issues raised in the context of NEPA processes, habitat conservation efforts, wildland fire management, land use regulation, permitting and licensing processes, and other areas of resource management.

DOI leadership recognizes value of implementing the 2005 OMB-CEQ policy memorandum on ECR and will continue to encourage greater use of ECR and collaborative problem-solving during 2008. The implementation of the ECR Memorandum is part of a coordinated effort to increase organizational capacity and competency to effectively manage and resolve conflicts and disputes that may otherwise negatively impact the agency's ability to accomplish its mission. DOI is committed to the use of a broad spectrum of cooperative and collaborative approaches to accomplish its mission and will continue to focus on demonstrating results through the effective use of these processes.

Attachment

cc: Deputy Secretary
Chief of Staff
Associate Deputy Secretary
Solicitor



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

FEB 1 2008

Memorandum

To: Office of Management and Budget
White House Council on Environmental Quality

Through: Paul Hoffman, *Paul Hoff*
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Capital, Performance, and Partnerships

From: Elena Gonzalez, *Dave Ruma for*
Director, Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution, and
Shayla Simmons, *Shayla Simmons*
Senior Counsel for Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution

Subject: 2007 Department of the Interior Report on Environmental Conflict Resolution

Enclosed is the Department of the Interior (DOI) 2007 Report on Environmental Conflict Resolution (ECR), jointly prepared by the Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution (CADR) and the Senior Counsel for CADR, for submission by Paul Hoffman, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Capital, Performance, and Partnerships, the designated ECR point of contact for DOI under the OMB-CEQ ECR Policy Memorandum.

The information contained in this report was collected by the CADR office from the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Solicitor (SOL), and DOI's nine Bureaus: the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the National Park Service (NPS), the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The Office of the Secretary includes DOI's Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) and the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC).

This report reflects DOI's continued use of ECR and collaborative problem-solving processes to engage stakeholders in order to achieve sustainable solutions for accomplishing DOI missions and program goals in 2007. It also reflects that DOI is improving its ability to capture relevant information on the use of ECR and collaborative problem-solving processes in all areas of DOI. The data collected indicates that DOI bureaus participated in at least 35-45 ECR processes during fiscal year 2007.

The DOI is establishing an institutional culture of cooperative conservation and the use of ECR. The new DOI Strategic Plan 2007-2012 includes two collaborative action performance measures:

- *Cooperative Conservation Internal Capacity*: Percent of organizations that have trained and developed employees in collaboration and partnering competencies
- *Cooperative Conservation External Capacity*: Percent of conservation projects that actively involve the use of knowledge and skills of people in the area, and local resources in priority setting, planning, and implementation processes.

In addition, bureaus have increased the institutional capacity to support ECR by, among other things, including performance elements on collaboration and conflict management in annual employee performance plans, and providing training for managers and attorneys to support the appropriate and effective use of ECR. DOI continues to use ECR in a wide variety of program areas and circumstances ranging from early collaborative planning processes and negotiated rulemaking efforts to the negotiated settlement of matters in adjudication, and including a variety of natural resource and environmental issues raised in the context of NEPA processes, habitat conservation efforts, wildland fire management, land use regulation, permitting and licensing processes, and other areas of resource management.

DOI leadership recognizes value of implementing the 2005 OMB-CEQ policy memorandum on ECR and will continue to encourage greater use of ECR and collaborative problem-solving during 2008. The implementation of the ECR Memorandum is part of a coordinated effort to increase organizational capacity and competency to effectively manage and resolve conflicts and disputes that may otherwise negatively impact the agency's ability to accomplish its mission. DOI is committed to the use of a broad spectrum of cooperative and collaborative approaches to accomplish its mission and will continue to focus on demonstrating results through the effective use of these processes.

Attachment

cc: Deputy Secretary
Chief of Staff
Associate Deputy Secretary
Solicitor
