

## **Attachment 10H(1)**

### **Explanatory Note for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) February 1, 2011**

This transmits the FWS National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance report for projects and activities funded under Section 1609 (c) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The Excel reporting template updates the NEPA compliance status for all FWS ARRA projects and activities identified or selected through December 31, 2010. This report updates and clarifies previous FWS submissions and reports projects added or completed during the current reporting period. The following information summarizes the content of our report.

#### **ARRA Projects vs. NEPA actions**

The total number of FWS ARRA NEPA projects remains at 713, with a total of 1,055 NEPA actions, as reported in the previous NEPA status report (September 30, 2010). There were no new projects added this quarter. As explained in previous reports, some ARRA projects are defined broadly and therefore they can be broken down into sub-projects that have independent utility and are individually analyzed under NEPA. This can result in a higher number of NEPA actions per ARRA project.

#### **Pending Actions**

NEPA compliance has been completed for the majority of our ARRA funded projects. To date, 1,054 of the current total of 1,055 FWS NEPA actions have been completed, while only 1 NEPA action, project R9VA, remains pending. This project involves obtaining LEED EB Certification, upgrading existing building systems to reduce energy consumption, and constructing onsite sustainable energy systems. We anticipate that NEPA compliance for this action will be finalized during the next reporting period.

### **Withdrawn Actions**

To date, the FWS has a total of 94 cancelled or withdrawn projects. No project withdrawals were reported during the current reporting period.

### **Current Updates**

The status of projects R2UC (row 184), R6 TA (row 581) and R6UA (row 582) were changed from pending to done because NEPA compliance was completed for these projects during this reporting period. We completed all federal environmental reviews and documents for 5 additional projects during this reporting period and updated column J on the Excel Spreadsheet documenting those changes as follows:

R2UC (row 184), R4JB (row 320), R4KC (row 334), R4KR (row 345), and R4RB (row 400) were changed from no to yes;

R4KD (row 335) was changed from yes to no because the project requires completion of a Corps of Engineers permit determination.

Finally, we are continuing to make progress toward completing all federal requirements for FWS ARRA projects, including Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and National Historic Preservation Act permits and reviews. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, please contact David Stout, Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, at (703) 358-2161 or Pat Carter, National Environmental Coordinator, at (703) 358-1764.