

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

### **Explanatory Note for DOI the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Report May 2, 2011**

This transmits the Fish and Wildlife Service's (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 March 31, 2011. This report also updates and clarifies previous FWS submissions and reports the status of other federal requirements 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 (December 31, 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.

#### **Completed NEPA Actions**

NEPA compliance (1,055 NEPA actions) has been completed for all 713 FWS ARRA funded projects. Project R9VA (row 706) has been erroneously identified as having incomplete NEPA compliance in previous FWS ARRA reports. However, the documentation for the categorical exclusion covering this action was signed on June 28, 2010. The spreadsheet has been revised to reflect this correction.

#### **Updates - Other Federal Environmental Reviews & Documents (p.2 - Column J)**

The following summary updates progress toward completing other Federal environmental requirements associated with FWS ARRA projects since the previous quarterly report. The spreadsheet has been revised to reflect these changes.

1) Projects R4BM (row 268), R4KD (row 335), and R4ML (row 361) have received the required Corps of Engineers 404 permits.

2) Project R4MJ (359) has received a concurrence letter from the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office and all permits have been completed for this project.

3) Early in the design process, the scope of work covered by ARRA funding was decreased to “design only” for projects R6GR (row 528) and R6MA (row 566). The design phase for these projects was completed in FY 2010 and no additional Federal requirements are needed.

4) All Federal environmental reviews have been completed for the Hartland Dam removal project (R6TA and R6UA, rows 581 - 582).

**Pending Federal Environmental Reviews & Documents (p.2 - Column J)**

Federal requirements remain pending for the following FWS ARRA projects: R4AF (row 257); R4TA (row 403); R4UB (row 408); R4UC (row 409); and R4UD (row 410). We are continuing to make progress toward completing all Federal environmental reviews for these projects.

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.

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