

**Attachment 26A**

**Explanatory Note for U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Report  
November 2, 2009**

Since the last ARRA NEPA report, has additional funds have been obligated under the USAID Capital Investment Fund for the Global Acquisition and Assistance System (GLAAS) Project. No new USAID projects or activities have been added since the last report.

To date, Recovery Act funds have enabled USAID to achieve preliminary goals towards the completion and deployment of GLAAS. On August 3, 2009, USAID began testing and evaluation of GLAAS 3.1, which provides critical functionality for Headquarters offices and overseas missions. The testing and evaluation will enable the decisionmaking process and concurrent NEPA review, to focus on a proposed action sufficiently refined to merit environmental review.

In a continuing effort to comply with NEPA, USAID has sought approval of a categorical exclusion (CE) for certain domestic, internal USAID activities. This includes the deployment of GLAAS. This effort led to publishing a Directive for Final Action in the Federal Register September 9, 2009 (FR 74 173 p. 46413). No material comments were received.. The draft Final Rule will be submitted for OMB clearance by mid November 2009. The Directive will establish a categorical exclusion that will, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, be applicable to the GLASS project.

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