

COMMENTS

By

Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission

On

**Proposed Guidance on Categorical Exclusions
Under The
National Environmental Policy Act**

Prepared By

Council on Environmental Policy

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) is appreciative of the opportunity to provide input and comments on the Council on Environmental Policy proposed guidance on categorical exclusions. The IOGCC has recognized the critical need for updating and improving provisions within NEPA and has taken an active role in identifying and providing possible solutions for improvement to various federal agencies over the past years.

The IOGCC recognize the need for the rules which underlie the categorical exclusion to comport with the letter of the law. The IOGCC also strongly supports its continued use as outlined in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The categorical exclusion provides an excellent efficiency measure for oil and gas exploration on federal lands.

The IOGCC, representing the governors of 30 member and seven associate states, promotes the conservation and efficient recovery of the nation's oil and natural gas resources while protecting health, safety, and the environment. Established by the charter member states'

governors in 1935, it is the oldest, largest, and most effective interstate compact in the nation.