

INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

DATE: July 20, 2017

FROM: Kristin Bail, Assistant Director – Resources and Planning

SUBJECT: Integrating Greenhouse Gas emissions analysis in NEPA

This memo provides information about the development of updated guidance for considering greenhouse gas emissions in NEPA reviews, and rescission of Permanent Instruction Memorandum 2017-003, which transmitted and stepped down to the BLM *The Council on Environmental Quality Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews*. The CEQ guidance was formally withdrawn in the Federal Register dated April 5, 2017 (see attached), and is no longer in effect.

BACKGROUND

Permanent [Instruction Memorandum \(IM\) No. 2017-003](#) transmitted guidance related to the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) August 2016 *Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews*. In addition to transmitting the CEQ guidance, this IM provided additional, specific guidance related to BLM oil, gas, and coal-related decisions.

DISCUSSION

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IM 2017-xxx Instruction Memorandum
United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>

xxx xx, 2017

In Reply Refer To:

1601, 1790 (210) P

EMS Transmission xx/xx/2017

Instruction Memorandum No. 2017-xxx

To: All Washington Office and Field Officials

From: Assistant Director for Resources and Planning

Subject: Guidance on Considering Greenhouse Gas Emissions in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews, and rescission of Permanent Instruction Memorandum 2017-003.

Program Areas: National Environmental Policy Act and Planning

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[REDACTED] generally does not provide production estimates or combustion rates. Combustion rates may not be directly proportional to production estimates, as not all fluid resources produced are combusted. As in all NEPA documents, analytical assumptions, including their limitations, must be disclosed.

² <http://energy.usgs.gov/OilGas/AssessmentsData/NationalOilGasAssessment.aspx#.WDNQbE2QzX7>

³ <https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/crudeoilreserves/top100/>

⁴ <http://www.eia.gov/oiaf/1605/coefficients.html>.

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/energy/ghg-equivalencies-calculator-calculations-and-references>.