



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Memorandum

Region 8

Subject: Statement of Principle,
Wetland Conservation Related to
Transportation Projects

Date: December 6, 1994

From: Director Office of Program
Development
Lakewood, Colorado

Reply to
Attn. of: HPD-08

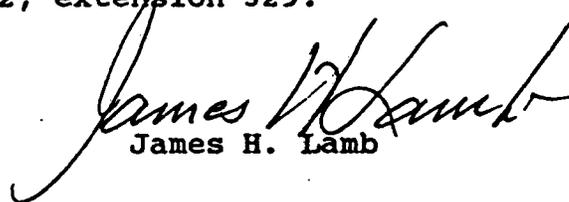
To: Division Administrators

Attached are copies of the subject statement which is intended to satisfy Washington Headquarters' desire to document the merger of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities and coordination with Section 404 (404) of the Clean Water Act permitting requirements. We have returned original signed copies to the signatory agencies with a copy of this memorandum.

We, at the regional level, feel that the four agencies, through the Interagency Steering Committee, are acting in concert with regard to the NEPA/404 merger. The committee members maintain an ongoing relationship and keep each other apprised of new and changing wetland initiatives.

It is recommended that the statement be shared and discussed with the state departments of transportation and your state wetlands resource groups. Most of you have wetland conservation relationships established and ongoing, and it certainly is not our intent to generate additional paper; however, you may find that a similar statement at the state level would further define the purpose of the NEPA/404 merger.

Questions regarding the above should be directed to Mr. Robert Jacobsen at 303-969-5772, extension 329.


James H. Lamb

Attachments

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

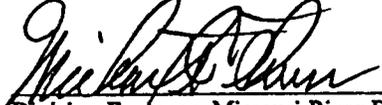
WETLAND CONSERVATION RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

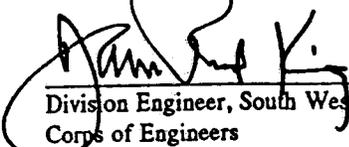
The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Corps of Engineers (CE), and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains area are committed to fulfilling their responsibilities to protect and enhance this nation's wetlands. These commitments are necessary to help meet President Clinton's goal of "no net loss" of wetlands. Conservation of other important resources also will be promoted.

- ◆ The FHWA's Strategic Plan (FHWA 2000) and new Environmental Policy Statement reflect a commitment to enhance communication and coordination and to protect and enhance the environment, thereby bringing NEPA and Section 404 considerations together.
- ◆ The CE administers the Clean Water Act (Act), Section 404 permit program, through a new strategic direction for the environment and promotes the concept of partnering to provide greater communication and coordination among agencies.
- ◆ The EPA is responsible for implementing the Act, which includes wetlands protection, in partnerships with state and local agencies. The EPA and CE jointly administer Section 404 of the Act, the major federal regulatory tool, to protect wetlands and other waters of the United States.
- ◆ Federal construction and permitting agencies consult with FWS for input on means of conserving fish and wildlife resources, including migratory birds and threatened and endangered species. A current FWS priority is partnerships with landowners and other agencies to restore, create, and enhance wetlands.

These four federal agencies promote early coordination and communication among federal, state, and local agencies to ensure transportation projects are designed and implemented to protect, conserve, and enhance wetland resources while providing safe and efficient highway transportation to the public. They also will promote and coordinate needed policy and wetland training for managers and technicians within their agencies as well as other federal, state, and local agencies, as appropriate. An Interagency Steering Committee (FHWA, EPA, CE, and FWS) has been formed to advise top management.


 Administrator, Region 8
 Federal Highway Administration
 9/12/94
 Date


 Division Engineer, Missouri River Division
 Corps of Engineers
 14 Oct 94
 Date


 Division Engineer, South Western Division
 Corps of Engineers
 10/25/94
 Date


 Division Engineer, South Pacific Division
 Corps of Engineers
 5 Nov 94
 Date


 Regional Administrator, Region VIII
 Environmental Protection Agency
 11/17/94
 Date


 Regional Director, Region 6
 Fish and Wildlife Service
 11/23/94
 Date