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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

February 22, 1993

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pam McElwee
c/o Katie McGinty

FROM: Charles Herrick
Associate Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Herrick", written over the printed name of Charles Herrick.

SUBJECT: Interagency Committee on Environmental Trends (ICET)

Per our discussion of last Friday, I have tried to briefly describe the Interagency Committee on Environmental Trends (ICET) and the importance of its continued operation. I would welcome the opportunity to brief you and Katie in greater detail.

Please contact me at 5750 if you have questions.

Attachments

Thank you for your help.

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS

Background: The Interagency Committee on Environmental Trends (ICET) was convened to provide an interagency forum to coordinate environmental analysis and reporting. (A list of agencies involved in ICET is attached.) ICET plays a coordination and liaison role, it could greatly facilitate the establishment of a bureau of environmental statistics.

The federal government currently funds over 80 environmental data programs in 25 different agencies. The data these programs provide vary in scope, format and content. This frustrates efforts to capture the interconnections among data sets and understand the bigger picture, and hinders communication of comprehensive information to decision makers and resource managers. Without an integrating and coordinating body, the federal government is "data rich, but information poor."

ICET is an established interagency working group, with defined objectives, tasks, and an interagency decision and management structure. ICET is a cooperative and consensus-based program, relying on existing data and resources. It could produce a government-wide state-of-the-environment report quickly, establishing an environmental baseline against which to measure progress and success.

Issue: Since ICET was convened by CEQ, it could be put at risk by uncertainties regarding CEQ's status.

Suggestion: The publication of a government-wide state-of-environment report would provide a focus for interagency coordination, allow the articulation of common goals and objectives, and serve as a basis for rational environmental policy. Such a process could be initiated by Executive Order. A statement of the Administration's support for ICET would guarantee continued progress and support for this interagency initiative.

- o Additional information on ICET is contained in a draft strategic plan, available from CEQ.

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS (ICET)

ICET: ACTIVE AGENCIES

Bureau of Labor Statistics (DOL)

Bureau of the Census (DOC)

Department of Defense

Bureau of Economic Analysis (DOC)

Council on Environmental Quality (EOP)

Department of Energy

Environmental Protection Agency

Fish & Wildlife Service (DOI)

Forest Service (USDA)

Geological Survey (DOI)

Bureau of Land Management (DOI)

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (DOC)

National Park Service (DOI)

National Science Foundation

Office of Science and Technology Policy (EOP)

Department of State

Department of Transportation