



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

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PEP - ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT MEMORANDUM NO. ESM94-8

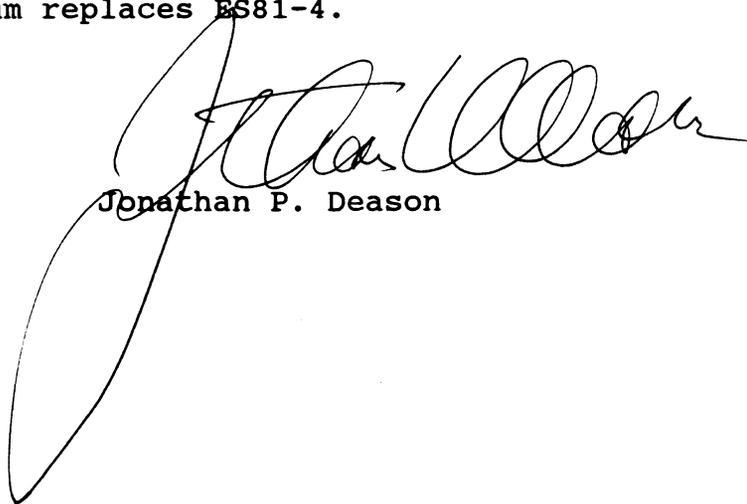
To: Heads of Bureaus and Offices
From: Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Subject: Time Periods for Review of a Draft EIS (516 DM 4.24)

The CEQ minimum review period for a draft EIS is forty-five days. The EPA filing procedures begin this period on the date that their Federal Register notice is published. This usually occurs on the Friday following the week that EPA receives the document.

Thus the CEQ/EPA review period actually closes between 52 and 57 days after EPA receives the document, depending upon what day of the week it is received. Because of the uncertainty associated with this, the Department's sixty day period was established so that originating bureaus can provide a specific closing date for comments at the time the draft EIS is distributed to others for public review, and without having either to determine what day of the week the document would be received by EPA or to refer the reviewer to an unpublished Federal Register notice.

On a case-by-case basis, bureaus may request and the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance may grant a waiver of the Department's sixty day period to coincide with the CEQ/EPA forty-five day period when the 3-8 day savings are important to the proposal or its decision process.

This memorandum replaces ES81-4.



Jonathan P. Deason