**Secretarial Order 3355 Compliance in light of the Government Shutdown FAQ**

* *Will the Department of the Interior (Department, DOI) adjust the Secretarial Order (S.O.) 3355 mandatory 1-year deadline or the April 2019 deadline for projects noticed prior to the S.O. due to the furlough?*

No, the Department expects that we assess each project individually since not all project schedules will be impacted and impacts will vary. Final EIS/ROD dates may be revised up to 30 days later than scheduled. Delays greater than 30 days require DOI approval.

* *Will DOI provide a “blanket” extension on EIS deadlines because of the furlough? Or, should individual approvals be submitted to the Department to adjust timelines on a project-by-project basis?*

The Department will not grant a “blanket” extension because not every project will be impacted to the same degree by the shutdown. Timelines should be adjusted on a project-by-project basis. However, as stated above, deadlines may be moved back up to 30 days. For these projects, the lead region/program should revise the dateas in the NEPA Permit and Tracking Database. Information for projects that require more than a 30-day extension must be provided to Rachel London and Trish Adams. ES HQ will provide the information to the Department. The Department will review the information and provide feedback. The Department may reach out to the lead SES who should be prepared to answer questions regarding extension requests that are greater than 30 days.

* *How will the interim due dates and briefing dates that were previously negotiated with DOI in December 2018 be adjusted to account for the government shutdown? Should we propose new targets that seem reasonable, or wait for additional direction?*

For these and all other projects, each Region should do their best to meet the timelines as proposed prior to furlough. Please note, project proponent driven EISs are not expected to be delayed by the shutdown. The assumption is that the applicants/contractors were working on the EIS during the shutdown. Where it is not possible to meet the existing timelines:

* The Senior Executive Service (SES) point of contact can approve a new timeline if the delay is 30 days or less from the original target date. Please update the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) NEPA and Permitting Database accordingly. There is no need to provide any additional explanation or develop a waiver request.

* However, if the delay is 31 or more days, the responsible Senior Executive Service member must provide a revised timeline and provide an explanation of the extenuating circumstance causing the delay. The SES member should be prepared to defend the revised timeline. Simply indicating we were on furlough is not a justification; rather a description of the actions that were affected by the furlough and how these impacts will be ameliorated through additional measures should be described. After the Department reviews the information and provides feedback indicating that the extension request may proceed, the information should be entered into the OEPC NEPA Permit and Tracking Database, including a waiver request.

* *What is the process for adjusting the milestone dates in the online OEPC NEPA database? Should we mark the furlough as “paused” time in the OEPC database?*

No, the pause option should not be used (see above).

* *How should we go about scheduling briefings with the DOI NEPA Review Team – should we start requesting them now, or wait for a more comprehensive schedule to be developed?*

Schedule the clearance briefings as soon as you are prepared to conduct the briefing.

* *Will any DOI NEPA Review Team briefing stages be waived due to the shutdown?*

No. Follow the established DOI EIS clearance process.