

June 21, 1996

INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP

Review of Priority Issues Submitted by National Petroleum Council

By letter dated December 30, 1994, the Secretary of Energy requested the National Petroleum Council (NPC) to undertake a study of the role that the oil and gas industry plays in the nation's economy and of the issues and policies affecting the industry's future.

In August 1995, the National Petroleum Council issued a report titled *Future Issues – A View of U.S. Oil and Natural Gas to 2020*. This report signals a new commitment by NPC members to increase constructive engagement with all energy sector stakeholders. It also identifies issues that the oil and gas industry perceives to be obstacles to the industry's ability to continue to provide affordable supplies of oil and gas to U.S. citizens into the 21st century.

By letter dated November 7, 1995, the Secretary stated that the Department of Energy was forming a permanent interagency working group to "address policy or regulatory issues...that significantly affect industry competitiveness and require coordinated consideration or action by the government." In addition, the Secretary requested the Council to provide the Department "with a list of top-priority issues to be addressed by the working group."

On January 31, 1996, the NPC provided a prioritized list of issues in a report titled *Issues for Interagency Consideration, a Supplement to the NPC's Future Issues Report* (Supplemental Report). The Supplemental Report also recommends both short- and long-term actions to address each issue.

As an initial activity, the Interagency Working Group has been reviewing the issues provided by the NPC and examining actions that might be taken or are already underway. The status of the group's activities is summarized on the following pages in a matrix which:

- Lists each of the issues identified in the Supplemental Report (cross referenced to the Supplemental Report by page number).
- Identifies, in abbreviated form, the short- and long-term actions that the NPC recommends for interagency consideration.
- Identifies the agencies that are active on each issue.
- Identifies activities that are already underway that address or are relevant to each action recommended by the NPC.
- Identifies lead DOE personnel for each issue to coordinate and integrate information pertaining to that issue. In addition, a similar contact is being designated from the lead agency on each issue.