

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
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***NEWS RELEASE***

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**FOR RELEASE:**

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**WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON ENERGY PROJECT STREAMLINING HOLDS OPEN HOUSES**

**The White House Task Force on Energy Project Streamlining will hold open house hours every Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning in November, beginning November 8<sup>th</sup>.** The task force has been receiving public comments on specific projects and/or general process improvements since August. This time is available for further elaboration on comments already submitted and also for others who wish to share their views.

The task force and the open house are not forums for lobbying or expediting specific agency actions regarding approval or denial of any particular project. Project decisions will remain at the department level. The task force will not make individual permit decisions.

All or some members of the task force will be on hand during the times listed below:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Thurs	11/8/01	9 am - 12 pm	722 Jackson Place, CEQ conference room
Tues	11/13/01	1-5 pm	726 Jackson Place, White House Conference Center
Thurs	11/15/01	9 am - 12 pm	722 Jackson Place, CEQ conference room
Tues	11/20/01	1-5 pm	726 Jackson Place, White House Conference Center
Thurs	11/22/01		THANKSGIVING - No Open House
Tues	11/27/01	1-5 pm	726 Jackson Place, White House Conference Center
Thurs	11/29/01	9 am - 12 pm	726 Jackson Place, White House Conference Center

Appointments can be scheduled in 30 minute or 1 hour blocks. The task force requests that people wishing to appear at an open house reserve a time slot. To schedule appointments, please call Bonny Overton at 202-586-3464 or e-mail her at [bonny.overton@hq.doe.gov](mailto:bonny.overton@hq.doe.gov).

The task force was established by President Bush's May 18, 2001 Executive Order. It is charged with assisting and monitoring federal agencies' efforts to expedite energy related projects while maintaining safety, public health, and environmental protections. This federal interagency task force, chaired by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, will also help agencies coordinate federal, state, tribal and local permitting in geographic areas where increased permitting activity is expected.

For more information, please visit the White House Task Force on Energy Project Streamlining web site at:

[www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/etf.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/etf.html).

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MMS Internet website address: <http://www.boem.gov>