

Gulf Consortium Mtg. October 25

- The Consortium believes:
 - it is critical for funds to be distributed as quickly as possible
 - It is equally critical to ensure the Rule strikes a balance between adhering to the Act, while streamlining the process to access funds.

Summary Point 1

Access to funds:

- advance payments and reimbursement for work already completed.
- recognize that recipients of funds face organizational, staffing and fiscal challenges at all levels, so the process for accessing and spending funds must be explicitly outlined to avoid time delays
- the processes for grant applications, advance payment and reimbursement must be clear in the Rule.

Summary Point 2

The planning and project implementation process:

- must provide clear guidance and consider the complexity of implementing projects
- outline a clear process for public involvement which may be shaped by other factors such as environmental compliance and streamlining procurement
- clarify the requirements for the content of the various plans as well as procedural and fiscal

Summary Point 3

Environmental compliance:

- clearly articulate the various environmental requirements for planning and project implementation
- provide guidance on compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for program, plan and project implementation through the use of categorical exclusions, environmental assessments and environmental impact statements.