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Interior Selects Facilitator for U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Effort

Signature Initiative of the U.S. Open Government National Action Plan

WASHINGTON – As part of President Obama’s Open Government Partnership commitments, the U.S. Department of the Interior has selected Patrick Field and Rachel Milner Gillers of the Consensus Building Institute to facilitate the U.S. effort to join a voluntary, multi-national framework for transparency in reporting revenues received for oil, gas, and mineral development. As facilitator, the Consensus Building Institute will assist the U.S. with developing an effective, robust outreach and engagement process with potential stakeholders as it readies the U.S. application for candidacy to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

“President Obama has made transparency in government one of the cornerstones of his Administration,” said Secretary Salazar, who is the U.S. Senior Official responsible for implementing the initiative. “The USEITI will be a major step forward in helping American companies compete on a level international playing field regarding international royalty and revenue collections. Just as importantly, the initiative will promote transparency to the American people for the use of its public resources.”

The first step in the process will be to conduct a stakeholder assessment by conducting interviews with representatives of public and private sectors in the United States, including federal, tribal, state and local governments along with industry, and civil society. Additionally, the USEITI assessment process will be supported by a public comment period, which will be announced via a Federal Register notice in the near future. The completed assessment will be used to inform the U.S. candidacy process as it moves forward.

President Obama announced his intention last September to implement EITI as a signature initiative of the U.S. Open Government National Action Plan, and shortly after named Salazar as the U.S. Senior Official responsible for implementing USEITI. Meanwhile, in December 2011, Secretary Salazar announced a Tribal Consultation Policy for the Department, launching a new era of enhanced communication with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. The Tribal Consultation Policy, like the EITI, emphasizes trust, respect, shared responsibility and greater transparency and will include discussions about EITI.

The design of each EITI framework is country-specific, and is developed through a multi-year, consensus based process by a multi-stakeholder group comprised of representatives from government, industry and civil society. As facilitator, CBI will assist the U.S. in fulfilling its responsibility under the EITI to engage



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stakeholders and establish the multi-stakeholder group, which in turn will oversee the design and implementation of the USEITI, up to and including the ultimate attainment of EITI compliance.

“We are delighted to be assisting industry, civil society, and the federal government to advance this important initiative that will serve the interests of our nation and set an example for others around the world,” said Patrick Field.

The USEITI planning group is comprised of members from the White House and the Departments of Interior, State and Treasury.

More information about EITI can be found at www.doi.gov/EITI.

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