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U.S. Department of the Interior Announces Results of USEITI Implementation Assessment

Sought public's opinions on formation of a Multi-Stakeholder Group to implement USEITI

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of the Interior today announced that the assessment phase of the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI) implementation was complete. The Department had earlier retained an independent facilitator, the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), to conduct an assessment of USEITI stakeholders concerning the implementation process and options for forming a U.S. multi-stakeholder group (MSG) comprised of government, industry and civil society representatives that will be responsible for guiding the implementation of USEITI.

In February, Interior began seeking the public's input on the MSG's formation. To obtain the public's views, the Department used a series of public listening sessions, web-based public comments, a webinar, a public workshop, and written comments submitted to Interior. Those comments formed the basis of CBI's independent, Final Stakeholder Assessment and Multi-Stakeholder Group Findings. The next phase of USEITI implementation will involve establishing the MSG and seeking candidates from the public to conduct MSG business, which will include designing and implementing the USEITI processes. The public will have additional opportunities to comment as the process continues.

In September 2011, President Barack Obama announced the United States' commitment to participate in EITI, a signature initiative of the U.S. National Action Plan for the international Open Government Partnership. The EITI focuses on expanding transparency concerning the revenues that governments are receiving from natural resources – oil, gas and minerals -- for the public's information. In the past six years, more than 30 countries have started disclosing revenues through the EITI. The design of each framework is country-specific, and is the result of a multi-year, consensus-based process.

On October 25, President Obama named Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar as the U.S. Senior Official responsible for implementing USEITI. In response, Secretary Salazar posted a White House blog the same day, committing to work with industry and civil society to implement USEITI.

For further information on EITI, including all the comments received during the public comment periods and the assessment itself, please visit the USEITI webpage at <http://www.doi.gov/EITI>.

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