

## **Basic Principles of Agency Engagement in Environmental Conflict Resolution and Collaborative Problem Solving**

*From the Office of Management and Budget and President's Council on Environmental Quality  
2012 Joint Memoranda on Environmental Conflict Resolution*

### **Informed Commitment**

Confirm willingness and availability of appropriate agency leadership and staff at all levels to commit to principles of engagement; ensure commitment to participate in good faith with open mindset to new perspectives.

### **Balanced, Voluntary Representation**

Ensure balanced inclusion of affected/concerned interests; all parties should be willing and able to participate and select their own representatives.

### **Group Autonomy**

Engage with all participants in developing and governing process; including choice of consensus-based decision rules; seek assistance as needed from impartial facilitator/mediator selected by and accountable to all parties.

### **Informed Process**

Seek agreement on how to share, test and apply relevant information (scientific, cultural, technical, etc.) among participants; ensure relevant information is accessible and understandable by all participants.

### **Accountability**

Participate in the process directly, fully, and in good faith; be accountable to all participants, as well as agency representatives and the public.

### **Openness**

Ensure all participants and public are fully informed in a timely manner of the purpose and objectives of process; communicate agency authorities, requirements and constraints; uphold confidentiality rules and agreements as required for particular proceedings.

### **Timeliness**

Ensure timely decisions and outcomes.

### **Implementation**

Ensure decisions are implementable consistent with federal law and policy; parties should commit to identify roles and responsibilities necessary to implement agreement; parties should agree in advance on the consequences of a party being unable to provide necessary resources or implement agreement; ensure parties will take steps to implement and obtain resources necessary to agreement.