

Environmental Information Document Instructions For Wastewater and Drinking Water Projects

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies to the special appropriations projects (SPAPs). The NEPA regulations that apply to the SPAPs are the Council of Environmental Quality's implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and EPA's NEPA regulations at 40 CFR Part 6, Subparts A through D. In January 1995, EPA issued two memorandums describing how the NEPA requirements and the intergovernmental review regulations at 40 CFR Part 29 apply to special appropriations projects that were authorized in fiscal year (FY) 1995. The requirements found in those memorandums also apply to the SPAPs authorized by the EPA Appropriations Acts for FY 1996 through the present.

EPA reviews all SPAPs to assure compliance with NEPA and other environmental laws and regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act. For all projects that are not eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE), each grantee must complete an Environmental Information Document (EID). A suggested outline of topics to be discussed in the EID is provided below. An EID describes and evaluates the environmental impacts of the feasible alternatives, including the 'No Action' alternative. The scope of the EID should be commensurate with the size and significance of the proposed project.

Prior to preparation of the EID, the applicant should obtain concurrence for the proposed project from the crosscutters, such as the State's Historical Commission, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands, Section 404 permits, dredge and fill, structures placed in navigable waterways).

The EPA reviews the EID and makes a determination as to the environmental affects of the proposed project. If the project is found to have no significant effect, then EPA documents their findings with the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and issues a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for a 30-day comment period. Completion of the 30-day comment period without significant adverse opposition will complete the environmental review process. If the EPA cannot support a FNSI, the applicant will be required to take part in an Environmental Impact Statement.

Public participation should be included in the project planning process culminating in a public meeting or hearing that presents the proposed project to the public and includes discussion of both environmental and financial impacts. A record of the public meeting/hearing and proof of advertising should be included in the EID.

Suggested EID Outline/Topics

A Proposed Project and Funding Status

- 1 Project Purpose and Need (specify)
 - a Water Quality /Water Quantity Problems
 - b Public Health Concerns
 - c Inadequate System or System Components
 - d More Stringent Effluent Limits (WW only)
 - i Existing Effluent Limitations
 - i Proposed Effluent Limitations
 - e Other (specify)
- 2 Project Description
 - a Project Summary
 - b Planning Area Description (including a map with facilities)
 - c Planning Period (time period)
 - d Description of Project Construction Phases
 - e Owner and Operator of the Facilities
 - f Location of the Facilities
 - g 8.5 X 11, B&W Project Map Suitable for Distribution
- 3 Relevant Design Parameters
 - a Description of Major Unit Processes
 - b Flow Diagram
 - c Sewer/Water Pipe Lengths, Sizes, and Locations
 - d Basic Design Criteria
- 4 Project Cost
 - a Proposed Total Project Cost
 - b Portion of Total Project Cost Funded by EPA
 - c List of Amount, Sources, and Status of All Funding Sources

B Existing Environment As Pertains to Project

- 1 Public Health Problems Due to Water Quality
- 2 Water Quality Problems, Fish Kills, etc
- 3 Surface & Groundwater Hydrology
- 4 Drinking Water Sources and Supply
- 5 Physiography, Topography, Geology & Soils
- 6 Federally Endangered & Threatened Species
- 7 Air Quality (Non-attainment Area Needs State Sign-off)
- 8 Environmental Justice Information
 - a Conditions, Minority & Low Income Areas (include Median Family Income)
 - b Census Maps
- 9 Land Use & Development
- 10 Identification of Floodplains and Wetlands

C Existing Wastewater/Drinking Water System

- 1 General Description of Wastewater Collection & Treatment System
- 2 Existing Wastewater System (WW only)
 - a Wastewater Flows: Average, Peak, Wet Weather
 - b Influent Characteristics
 - c Major Industrial Users
 - d Residuals (sludge) Disposal
 - e Service Area
 - f Infiltration and Inflow
- 3 Existing Drinking Water System (DW only)
 - a Description of Treatment and Distribution System
 - b Water Demand: Average, Peak
 - c Surface Water Source (Intake Locations, Permitted and Actual Withdrawal)
 - d Groundwater Source (Wells & Well Fields)
 - e Water Storage
 - f Raw Water Characteristics
 - g Residuals (sludge) and Backwash Disposal
 - h Service Area
- 4 Existing System Performance
 - a NPDES Violations
 - b Safe Drinking Water Act Violations
 - c Other System Problems

D Need for Proposed Project

- 1 Expanded Description of Need Identified in Section A.1.
- 2 Land Use Projections
- 3 Population Forecast
- 4 Calculations and Assumptions for Forecasted Flow and Wasteload
- 5 Future Environment Without the Project

E Analysis of Alternatives

- 1 Development of Alternatives
 - a No-action
 - b Optimum Utilization of existing facility
 - i Flow Reduction
 - i Water Conservation
 - c New Construction Alternatives
- 2 Alternative Screening (Discussion for each alternative)
 - a Present Worth or Equivalent Annual Cost
 - b Reliability
 - c Complexity
 - d Environmental Factors
 - e Feasibility
- 3 Identification of Selected Alternative

F Environmental Consequences and Mitigative Measures for Selected Alternative

- 1 Direct
- 2 Secondary Impacts of Future Growth and Development
- 3 Mitigation
- 4 Cross-Cutting Environmental Laws and Sources Consulted
 - a Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, Pub. L. 86-523, as amended
 - b Clean Air Act, Pub. L. 84-159, as amended
 - c Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Pub. L. 97-348
 - d Coastal Zone Management Act, Pub. L. 92-583, as amended
 - e Endangered Species Act, Pub. L. 93-205, as amended
 - f Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898
 - g Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11988 as amended by EO 12148
 - h Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990
 - i Farmland Protection Policy Act, Pub. L. 97-98
 - j Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Pub. L. 85-624, as amended
 - k National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, PL 89-665, as amended
 - l Safe Drinking Water Act, Pub. L. 93-523, as amended
 - m Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Pub. L. 90-542, as amended
- 5 State Clearing House
- 6 Necessary Permits (NPDES, 404, etc.) Issued
- 7 Necessary Intermunicipal Agreements Executed

G Public Participation

- 1 Summary of Public Participation
- 2 Required Documentation
 - a Public Meeting Date
 - b Public Meeting Record
 - c Proof of Publication /Copy of Newspaper Advertisement