ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

For EDA Grant Applications
September 29, 2014

EDA

U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Presentation Overview

- Basis of EDA Environmental Requirements

- Steps in submitting complete environmental information in your grant application

NEPA of 1969

- Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) **ALL** federal agencies must assess the potential environmental impacts associated with a federal action.

- **https://ceq.hss.doe.gov/publications/nepa-handbooks.html**

Section 106 of NHPA

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. The historic preservation review process mandated by Section 106 is outlined in regulations issued by ACHP. Revised regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800), became effective August 5, 2004. http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html

EDA's Role Under NEPA and NHPA

- Per EDA Directive 17.02-2 the EDA must ensure that "proper environmental review of program activities takes place, that there is proper balance between goals of economic development and environmental enhancements and that adverse environmental impacts are mitigated or avoided to the extent possible."

Frontloading-Prior to Project Application Submittal

- Early identification of environmental issues during project development
  - Endangered species or habitat, http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/sppranges/index.html, http://www.fws.gov/refuges/ and http://rivers.gov/map.php
  - Wetlands in the project area, http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/index.html

Frontloading-Prior to Project Application Submittal

- Early identification of environmental issues during project development
  - Floodplains, https://msc.fema.gov/portal and http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program/national-flood-insurance-program-community-status-book
  - Coastal zones, http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/consistency/?redirect=301ocm

Frontloading-Prior to Project Application Submittal

- Early identification of environmental issues during project development
  - Archaeological/Historical resources, contact your local historical society office or the SHPO/THPO, http://www.nps.gov/nr/shpolist.htm and http://egis.hud.gov/tdat/Tribal.aspx
  - Air quality, http://www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/greenbk/
  - Land use, http://nationalmap.gov/ustopo/index.html

Frontloading-Prior to Project Application Submittal

- Early identification of environmental issues during project development
    - Prime farmland, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?ss=16&navtype=SUBNAVIGATION&cid=nrcs143_008275&navid=100170180000000&position=Welcome.Html&ttype=detail
    - Hazardous waste, determine if any hazardous conditions exist or existed in the past
    - Public Awareness, specifically Section1506.6(b)(3) https://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ceq/1506.htm#1506.6

Importance of Identifying Environmental Issues Upfront

- Identification of issues may precipitate additional studies:
  - Presence of threatened and endangered species could lead to completion of biological assessments
  - Presence of wetlands could lead to wetland delineation
  - Presence of archaeological/historic resources could lead to resource surveys necessary
  - Presence of hazardous materials may lead to ESAs

Importance of Identifying Environmental Issues Upfront

- A complete environmental portion of an application = timely review by EDA staff
- Time and money will be saved over the life of the project

Environmental Application Package

- What constitutes a complete environmental compliance package:
  - Read the most current FFO
  - http://www.eda.gov/about/prelim-engineering-and-environmental-templates.htm
  - Include maps with project location and the purpose of the project location demarcated

Environmental Narrative

- Site(s) where the proposed project facilities will be constructed and the surrounding areas affected by its operations

- Areas to be affected by any beneficiaries of the project

- Information submitted must be sufficient to evaluate all reasonable alternatives to the proposed project

Environmental Narrative

- The level of detail should be commensurate with the complexity and size of the project and magnitude of the expected impact

- Relevant recently completed environmental impact documents for activities in the area may be included

Questions/Comments

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