



**Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment  
Program (BEAD)  
National Environmental Policy Act  
(NEPA) Guidebook**

November 2025

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The information in this NEPA Guidebook is generally applicable to most projects. Some projects may encounter issues not covered in this document, and subgrantees are responsible for addressing such issues in compliance with NEPA and other applicable requirements. Subgrantees are encouraged to seek professional advisory services related to environmental and historic preservation requirements. The State of Arizona and Arizona Commerce Authority do not assume liability for omissions, errors, or outcomes related to the use of information provided in this document. Subgrantees are responsible for conducting their own due diligence and ensuring that all necessary environmental and historic preservation compliance and approvals are obtained for their projects.

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

ACA	Arizona Commerce Authority
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADEQ	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
APPEIT	ArcGIS Pro Permitting and Environmental Information Tool
ASLD	Arizona State Land Department
AZDA	Arizona Department of Agriculture
AZPDES	Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
BEAD	Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMPs	best management practices
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CatEx	categorical exclusion
CGP	Construction General Permit
EA	environmental assessment
EHP	environmental and historic preservation
EIS	environmental impact statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESAPTT	Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FAQs	frequently asked questions
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FirstNet	First Responder Network Authority
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GIS	geographic information system
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
LEO	low Earth orbit
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration
PEIS	programmatic environmental impact statement
ROW	right-of-way
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Overview**

This National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Guidebook provides information and Internet links to help grant recipients (subgrantees) comply with environmental and historic preservation (EHP) requirements for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program overseen nationally by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and overseen in Arizona by the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA). Subgrantees may refer to this guidebook as they prepare environmental documentation for their projects in Arizona.

Relevant topics are presented in this NEPA Guidebook in table format, with a brief explanation of the available information and, as applicable, links to more information. A clock icon highlights which tasks may take additional time to address—often tasks that involve coordination with a federal or state agency or other party (refer to links in sidebar to the right).

The information in this guidebook was current at the time of its drafting, and subgrantees should verify that they have the most up-to-date information as their projects proceed. Attachments to this guidebook provide additional information and resources to help subgrantees comply with EHP requirements.

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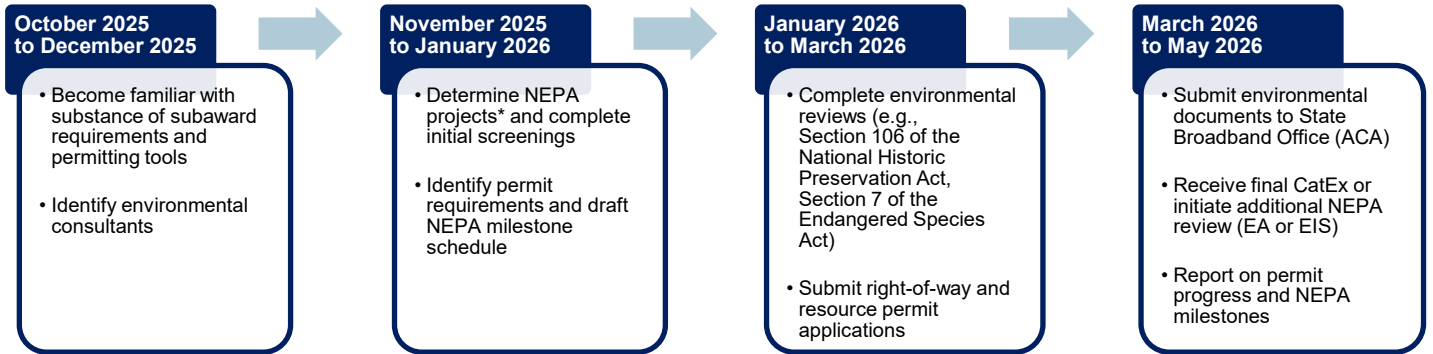
**What is NEPA?**

NEPA (42 U.S. Code Section 4321 et seq.) requires the consideration of environmental effects related to federal actions and federal decision-making. Because projects under the BEAD Program are receiving federal grant funding, the projects must comply with NEPA and related environmental laws, such as the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and others.

NEPA outlines three levels of environmental review:

- **Categorical exclusion (CatEx):** A project is “categorically excluded” from detailed environmental analysis when it would not have a significant effect on the environment—many projects under the BEAD Program are expected to qualify for a CatEx.
- **Environmental assessment (EA):** A project with the potential to result in significant effects on the environment undergoes the EA process to determine whether significant effects would occur.
- **Environmental impact statement (EIS):** A project that would have significant impacts on the environment would require the preparation of an EIS—it is unlikely that BEAD projects would require an EIS.

The graphic below illustrates the expected timeframe for NEPA documents. For projects that qualify for a CatEx, the timeframe is approximately 5 months, which includes a 2-week review period and issuance of a decision document by NTIA. Projects that will need additional review through preparation of an EA or EIS would have a longer timeframe, to be determined in coordination with NTIA.



Source: Adapted from *Piloting & Promoting BEAD Permitting Success*, NTIA Presentation, August 2025

\* A single BEAD project may include more than one NEPA project. For example, if the BEAD project will provide broadband service to three separate areas that can operate independently, those areas may be separated into three NEPA projects, potentially allowing the acceleration of one or more of the NEPA projects.

NTIA has taken steps to streamline the NEPA reviews for BEAD projects, including adopting a programmatic EIS (PEIS) that was prepared in 2017 by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. Because the types of projects documented in the FirstNet PEIS are similar to the BEAD projects, NTIA adopted the FirstNet PEIS to tier the environmental reviews for BEAD projects off the analyses already completed for the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. Using the tiering approach, NEPA documents prepared for a BEAD project may reference conditions and environmental effects described in the broader NEPA document (that is, the FirstNet PEIS) when such conditions and environmental effects are still valid—for any exceptions, the BEAD project’s NEPA document will address such exceptions with new or updated analyses. This approach offers efficiencies by allowing project proponents to use already completed analyses of existing conditions and environmental effects that remain valid.

The FirstNet PEIS was prepared for several regions of the United States. The Arizona chapter was included in the West Region PEIS document, and a website link is provided in Attachment 1. As part of the BEAD effort, the Arizona chapter was reviewed to identify outdated or missing information—refer to Attachment 2 for the PEIS review memo that addresses the needed updates and data gaps. Both attachments provide a wealth of information regarding Arizona’s environmental setting and data sources.

**How Will Subgrantees Complete the NEPA Process?**

ACA’s BEAD Program consists of five phases for EHP compliance:

- 1. Application Phase:** Subgrantees submit their applications for BEAD grant funding, including information related to EHP compliance. This phase is completed.
- 2. NEPA Planning and Review Phase:** Subgrantees design their projects and plan compliance with NEPA and other environmental requirements. They provide information to be used in NTIA’s Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) to determine the level of environmental review and to

document extraordinary circumstances and best management practices (BMPs), as applicable. For most projects, this phase is expected to last from January to May 2026.

3. **NEPA Approval Phase:** Based on the information submitted to NTIA through ESAPTT, NTIA issues a NEPA decision document. For most projects, this phase is expected to last from March to May 2026.
4. **Permitting Phase:** Subgrantees obtain necessary permits from local, state, and federal agencies (some of which cannot be issued until after a NEPA decision has been issued). This phase is expected to last from January 2026 to December 2028.
5. **Compliance and Monitoring Phase:** Subgrantees begin construction of their projects and facilitate compliance with and monitoring of BMPs and mitigation measures outlined in the projects' NEPA documents, as applicable. This phase is expected to last from April 2026 to December 2030.

Attachment 3 provides process flowcharts that provide more details on the above-listed phases. Note that subgrantees cannot begin deploying their projects until after NTIA has issued the NEPA decision.

Attachment 4 provides the ESAPTT Environmental Screening Questionnaire template (a Microsoft Excel file will be provided for subgrantees to fill out). The first step is an initial screening of the proposed projects, and it consists of completing the “Categorical Exclusions” section of ESAPTT to provide detailed project information (refer to sidebar on project descriptions) and to identify potentially applicable CatExes. Should a project not qualify for a CatEx, an EA or EIS may be needed, and further direction will be provided by NTIA and ACA. The CatExes that may be used for the BEAD Program are provided in Attachment 5. ESAPTT will also provide information on the tribal notification process.

#### ***What is a good project description?***

Subgrantees should include the following in their project descriptions:

- Type of project (for example, construction of a 150-foot monopole communication tower and related components such as an equipment shed, emergency generator, and fuel storage tank)
- Description of project site and surroundings (for example, developed land vs. open space; adjacent natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, or forests; and any protected lands)
- Maps and photographs of project site (aerial and site photographs, project footprint map, floodplain and wetlands maps)
- Project location (project address or detailed description of project route)
- Project implementation plans (10% minimum, acreage and depth of ground disturbance, including access routes and equipment and materials staging areas, and construction methods)
- State and federal agency consultation(s)

The next step is to complete the ESAPTT’s “Extraordinary Circumstances & Best Management Practices” section—this involves providing detailed information about a project’s potential environmental impacts and includes sections about threatened and endangered species; historical, archaeological, and cultural resources; water resources; hazardous materials; and other issues. Once this section is completed, ACA will submit the ESAPTT information to NTIA for review and a NEPA decision. With NTIA’s NEPA approval, the subgrantees will begin the next steps leading to construction of their projects.

#### ***What Coordination with Regulatory Agencies Should Subgrantees Expect?***

Subgrantees will coordinate with various agencies at the local, state, and federal levels; with tribes; and with other entities, as discussed below:

- **Local agencies:** Subgrantees will coordinate with counties and municipalities to ensure their projects would comply with local ordinances and regulations, such as those related to access road right-of-way (ROW), dust control, noise levels, zoning, scenic routes, etc. ACA has gathered information from Arizona counties about their permitting processes and has incorporated the data into its Arizona Permit Finder

online tool: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8ae6e9631c4c4d4baceeb26918dc1cb4/>.

Subgrantees may also need to coordinate with irrigation districts and utility companies, depending on whether their projects would affect canals, utility lines, and other similar infrastructure.



- **State agencies:** Subgrantees will coordinate with state agencies to address potential impacts on state lands and to ensure compliance with state laws and regulations. Those agencies include, and may not be limited to:
  - Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for projects with potential impacts on archaeological and historic resources
  - Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) for projects with potential impacts on state special-status species
  - Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) for projects that would involve clearing of native vegetation
  - Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) for projects crossing State Trust Land
  - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for potential concerns related to water quality and hazardous materials
  - Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for projects within the ROW of state highways



ACA has gathered information from state agencies about their permitting processes and has incorporated the data into its Arizona Permit Finder online tool:



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8ae6e9631c4c4d4baceeb26918dc1cb4/>.



- **Federal agencies:** Subgrantees will coordinate with federal agencies to address potential impacts on resources under federal jurisdiction and potential impacts on federal lands. Those agencies include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for projects with impacts on threatened and endangered species and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for impacts on waters of the U.S. Arizona has a substantial amount of federally managed land, and projects crossing those lands may entail coordination with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), National Park Service (NPS), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).
- **Tribes:** For projects on tribal land, NTIA would handle government-to-government communication with tribes, which includes tribal notifications early in the process. Subgrantees may also need to coordinate with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for ROW issues and with tribal departments that oversee particular resources, such as the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) for projects with potential impacts on archaeological and historic resources and the tribe's natural resources department for impacts on native plants.
- **Railroad owners:** Projects that cross railroads would involve coordination with the railroad owner—subgrantees are encouraged to initiate such coordination early in the process.

See the NEPA Guidebook Summary Table starting on the next page for resources and links.


NEPA Guidebook Summary Table		
Topic	Explanation	Resources
<b>Getting Started</b>		
NEPA Process	General guidance regarding the NEPA process	NTIA – Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NTIA_NEPA_Procedures_June_2025.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NTIA_NEPA_Procedures_June_2025.pdf</a>
NEPA Milestones	General NEPA milestone schedule and timeline	NTIA – NEPA for BEAD: Milestone Schedule & NEPA Timeline: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/NEPA_for_BEAD_Milestone_Schedule_NEPA_Timeline.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/NEPA_for_BEAD_Milestone_Schedule_NEPA_Timeline.pdf</a>
NEPA Initial Research	Geographic information system (GIS) tools with information on the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ federal/tribal lands and property</li> <li>▪ state lands</li> <li>▪ infrastructure/ROWs</li> <li>▪ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs</li> <li>▪ floodplains/wetlands</li> <li>▪ critical habitat</li> <li>▪ historic places</li> </ul> Subgrantees may use these tools to identify potential environmental issues for their projects.	NTIA – ArcGIS Pro Permitting and Environmental Information Tool (APPEIT) Project Package (for GIS practitioners): <a href="https://nbam.ntia.gov/content/37fa42c6313e4bdb9d8a9c05d2624891/about">https://nbam.ntia.gov/content/37fa42c6313e4bdb9d8a9c05d2624891/about</a>  NTIA – Permitting and Environmental Information Application (for general users): <a href="https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0">https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0</a>
NEPA Practitioners	 Consultant firms providing NEPA assistance in Arizona—subgrantees planning to hire a consultant should allow time for contracting	Arizona Association of Environmental Professionals: <a href="https://azaep.org/index.php">https://azaep.org/index.php</a>
	 List of qualified archaeological consultants in Arizona—subgrantees planning to hire a consultant should allow time for contracting	Arizona State Museum – Arizona Antiquities Act-Qualified Consultants: <a href="https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-04/qualified_aaa_consultants.pdf">https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-04/qualified_aaa_consultants.pdf</a>
NEPA Streamlining	Guidance on how to use NTIA’s streamlining tools for NEPA and permitting review and approval processes	NTIA – Streamlined Environmental Review & Permitting for Broadband: A Roadmap: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/Streamlined_Environmental_Review_and_Permitting_Roadmap">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/Streamlined_Environmental_Review_and_Permitting_Roadmap</a>
NEPA Applicability for Satellite Projects	Guidance from NTIA regarding the applicability of NEPA and other environmental laws to low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite projects	NTIA – BEAD Guidance on NEPA and NHPA for LEO Satellite Service: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/NTIA_BEAD_LEO_Guidance_Oct_2025.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/NTIA_BEAD_LEO_Guidance_Oct_2025.pdf</a>
<b>NEPA Documentation</b>		
Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT)	Guidance regarding ESAPTT, including the screening for applicable CatExes and the identification of extraordinary circumstances and BMPs—note that subgrantees will provide information in a Microsoft Excel file to populate the ESAPTT fields but will not directly work with the tool, which will be handled by ACA	NTIA – ESAPTT Overview: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/ESAPTT_Overview">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/ESAPTT_Overview</a>




NEPA Guidebook Summary Table		
Topic	Explanation	Resources
EA Guidance	Guidance and template for preparing an EA—subgrantees would prepare an EA if ESAPTT indicates that further review is needed and NTIA provides direction to prepare an EA	NTIA – Tiered EA Guidance and Template: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/NTIA_Tiered_EA_Guidance_and_Template">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/NTIA_Tiered_EA_Guidance_and_Template</a>
EIS Guidance	Guidance for preparing an EIS to be provided by NTIA—subgrantees would prepare an EIS if ESAPTT indicates that further review is needed and NTIA provides direction to prepare an EIS (this would be unlikely)	To be provided by NTIA
BMPs and Mitigation Measures	Guidance regarding BMPs and mitigation measures that may apply to BEAD projects—subgrantees may include BMPs and mitigation measures in their environmental documentation to address project impacts that cannot be avoided	NTIA – BMPs and Mitigation Measures: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/EHP_NTIA_BMPs_and_Mitigation_Measures.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/EHP_NTIA_BMPs_and_Mitigation_Measures.pdf</a>
<b>Defining the Project</b>		
Project Description	Detailed description of the project, including location, size (length/height), type of facility, area of ground disturbance (if applicable), and method of construction	Subgrantees may use the project description from their grant applications, updated as needed
Project Map	Map showing project improvements, including new facilities, area of ground disturbance, access routes, equipment staging areas, and materials storage areas	Subgrantees may use the project maps from their grant applications, updated as needed
<b>Land Jurisdiction, Land Use, and Infrastructure</b>		
Federal and Tribal Lands	 GIS tools showing federal and tribal lands that may involve environmental and permitting requirements—subgrantees should coordinate with federal or tribal agencies	NTIA – Permitting and Environmental Information Application – Federal/Tribal Lands and Property tab: <a href="https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instance/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0">https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instance/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0</a> ACA – Arizona Permit Finder: <a href="https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8ae6e9631c4c4d4baceeb26918dc1cb4/">https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8ae6e9631c4c4d4baceeb26918dc1cb4/</a>
State Lands	 GIS tools showing state lands that may involve environmental and permitting requirements—subgrantees should coordinate with state agencies	NTIA – Permitting and Environmental Information Application – State Lands tab: <a href="https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instance/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0">https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instance/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0</a> ACA – Arizona Permit Finder: <a href="https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8ae6e9631c4c4d4baceeb26918dc1cb4/">https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/8ae6e9631c4c4d4baceeb26918dc1cb4/</a> ASLD – ASLD Parcel Viewer: <a href="http://gis.azland.gov/webapps/parcel/">http://gis.azland.gov/webapps/parcel/</a>

NEPA Guidebook Summary Table		
Topic	Explanation	Resources
Access to Federal Lands	<p>Guidance from several federal agencies presented at a broadband permitting summit held in July 2024, focusing on permits to access ROW on federal land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BIA</li> <li>▪ BLM</li> <li>▪ BOR</li> <li>▪ NPS</li> <li>▪ USACE</li> <li>▪ USFS</li> </ul>	<p>BLM and NTIA – Federal Interagency Broadband Permitting Summit:  <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/DOC_NTIA_BLM_Interagency_Permitting_Summit_Agenda_Presentations_Recordings_10_02_24.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/DOC_NTIA_BLM_Interagency_Permitting_Summit_Agenda_Presentations_Recordings_10_02_24.pdf</a></p>
Facilities on Federal Land	Application for facilities to be located on federal lands	<p>General Services Administration – Application for Transportation, Utility Systems, Telecommunications and Facilities on Federal Lands and Property:  <a href="https://www.gsa.gov/system/files/2024-05/SF299-23.pdf">https://www.gsa.gov/system/files/2024-05/SF299-23.pdf</a></p>
BIA Guidance for Indian Trust Land	 <p>Guidance regarding NEPA requirements for projects that may affect land owned by a tribe or an individual Indian landowner where the title is held in trust by the U.S.—subgrantees whose projects may affect such land should coordinate with BIA regarding NEPA reviews</p>	<p>BIA – NEPA Review Levels:  <a href="https://www.bia.gov/service/nepa-compliance/nepa-review-levels">https://www.bia.gov/service/nepa-compliance/nepa-review-levels</a></p>
Local Planning and Zoning	Subgrantees may refer to county comprehensive plans and city/town general plans and zoning maps to determine whether the project would be compatible with local plans and zoning	<p>Arizona Association of Counties:  <a href="https://azcounties.org/">https://azcounties.org/</a></p> <p>Arizona League of Cities and Towns:  <a href="https://lqd.azleague.org/">https://lqd.azleague.org/</a></p>
Infrastructure and ROW	GIS tool showing infrastructure and ROW information—subgrantees may use the tool to determine infrastructure and ROW located within or near their projects	<p>NTIA – Permitting and Environmental Information Application – Infrastructure/ROWs tab:  <a href="https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0">https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0</a></p>
<b>Historical, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources</b>		
<b>Historic Resources</b>		
National Register of Historic Places	 <p>GIS tool showing historic properties and historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places—subgrantees may use the tool to determine the presence of such resources within or near their projects, and potential impacts would require evaluation</p>	<p>NTIA – Permitting and Environmental Information Application – Historic Places tab:  <a href="https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0">https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0</a></p>
Historic Property Forms and Resources	Forms and guidance from the Arizona SHPO that may be used to document historical built environment resources	<p>Arizona SHPO – SHPO Forms and Publications:  <a href="https://azstateparks.com/shpo-forms-and-publications">https://azstateparks.com/shpo-forms-and-publications</a></p>




NEPA Guidebook Summary Table		
Topic	Explanation	Resources
<b>Archaeological Resources</b>		
Archaeological Resources	 <p>AZSITE is a GIS tool providing data on recorded archaeological resources, including prehistoric and historic sites and properties, and surface surveys within the state of Arizona; note that access is restricted to authorized users, and users must submit an online application and pay a fee to use AZSITE. Potential impacts would require evaluation.</p>	Arizona State Museum – AZSITE: <a href="https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/crm/azsite">https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/crm/azsite</a>
Archaeological Resources Forms and Guidance	Guidance and forms from the Arizona State Museum for archaeological work in Arizona	Arizona State Museum – Forms and Guidance: <a href="https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/crm/document">https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/crm/document</a>
<b>Traditional Cultural Properties</b>		
Traditional Cultural Properties	Guidance for evaluating and documenting traditional cultural properties	National Park Service – National Register Bulletin: <a href="https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB38-Compleweb.pdf">https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB38-Compleweb.pdf</a>
<b>Section 106 Consultation</b>		
NHPA Section 106 Consultation	 <p>Fact sheet regarding the NHPA Section 106 consultation process for BEAD projects; note that the Section 106 process requires certain time periods to allow parties to respond to consultation letters</p>	NTIA – NHPA Consultation Process Fact Sheet: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/EHP_NHPA_Sect_106_Consultation_Process_Fact_Sheet.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/EHP_NHPA_Sect_106_Consultation_Process_Fact_Sheet.pdf</a>
NHPA Section 106 Delegation	Memo authorizing grant recipients to initiate Section 106 consultation for NTIA-funded projects	NTIA – Section 106 of the NHPA Delegation Memo: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/NTIA_Grant_Recipient_Delegation_Notice">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/NTIA_Grant_Recipient_Delegation_Notice</a>
Section 106 Streamlining	The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Program Comment for broadband projects, which is meant to accelerate Section 106 reviews for broadband projects	ACHP – Amendment to the Program Comment for Communications Projects on Federal Lands and Properties: <a href="https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/program_comments/2024-04/Communications%20Project%20PC%20amendment%20-%2020240313%20letterhead_SIGNED.pdf">https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/program_comments/2024-04/Communications%20Project%20PC%20amendment%20-%2020240313%20letterhead_SIGNED.pdf</a>
	Guidance on applying the ACHP Program Comment to broadband projects as a streamlining measure, including a flowchart showing the steps in the process	NTIA – The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Program Comment for Federal Communications Projects: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/EHP_NTIA_Section_106_Program_Comment_Flowchart.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/EHP_NTIA_Section_106_Program_Comment_Flowchart.pdf</a>
	The ACHP Program Comment for the construction and modification of wireless communications facilities, which is meant to accelerate Section 106 reviews for broadband projects involving wireless technology	ACHP – Program Comment to Avoid Duplicative Reviews for Wireless Communications Facilities Construction and Modification: <a href="https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/program-comment-avoid-duplicative-reviews-wireless">https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/program-comment-avoid-duplicative-reviews-wireless</a>



NEPA Guidebook Summary Table		
Topic	Explanation	Resources
USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Tool	 <p>Online interactive tool that requires input regarding project description and location and provides the potential for federally threatened and endangered species to be found in/near the project. Subgrantees wishing to submit projects for review must register to become a site user and should be aware that further project analysis, including USFWS consultation, may be warranted if threatened or endangered species are anticipated in/near the project area and would be affected.</p>	<p>USFWS – IPaC: <a href="https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/">https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/</a></p> <p>USFWS – Southwest Region: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/about/region/southwest">https://www.fws.gov/about/region/southwest</a></p>
ESA Section 7 Streamlining	Memorandum designating BEAD grant recipients as non-federal representatives for ESA Section 7 consultation for projects with “no effect” or “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determinations, and providing a list of broadband activities exempt from ESA Section 7 consultation	<p>NTIA – Authorization of IFA Grant Recipients to Serve as Non-Federal Representatives for Section 7 Consultation: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/NTIA_FWS_Non-Federal_Designation_Memo.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/NTIA_FWS_Non-Federal_Designation_Memo.pdf</a></p>
	Guidance on streamlining ESA Section 7 reviews for broadband projects	<p>NTIA – NTIA’s Guide to Streamlined ESA Compliance for Broadband Deployments: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/DOC_NTIA_Guide_to_Streamlined_Endangered_Species_Act_Compliance.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/DOC_NTIA_Guide_to_Streamlined_Endangered_Species_Act_Compliance.pdf</a></p>
Migratory Birds	Guidance regarding the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, including a list of migratory bird species	<p>USFWS – Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/law/migratory-bird-treaty-act-1918">https://www.fws.gov/law/migratory-bird-treaty-act-1918</a></p>
Bald and Golden Eagles	Guidance regarding the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	<p>USFWS – Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/law/bald-and-golden-eagle-protection-act">https://www.fws.gov/law/bald-and-golden-eagle-protection-act</a></p>
Arizona Online Environmental Review Tool	Online tool that provides information on fish and wildlife species in Arizona, including lists of species in three categories: special-status species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and Species of Economic Importance. It will also show wildlife movement corridors in the project area. Subgrantees wishing to submit projects for review must register to become a site user.	<p>AZGFD – Online Environmental Review Tool: <a href="https://ert.azgfd.gov/">https://ert.azgfd.gov/</a></p>
Noxious and Invasive Plant Species	Online citizen-science map database showing historic occurrences of noxious and invasive plant species.	<p>iMapInvasives: <a href="https://www.imapinvasives.org/">https://www.imapinvasives.org/</a></p>
Arizona Native Plants	Information on proper protocol for removal of protected native plants, including a Notice of Intent (NOI) to clear land, which would be submitted to the AZDA	<p>AZDA – Native Plants: <a href="https://agriculture.az.gov/plantsproduce/native-plants#:~:text=Plants%20cannot%20be%20removed%20from,to%20remove%20protected%20native%20plants">https://agriculture.az.gov/plantsproduce/native-plants#:~:text=Plants%20cannot%20be%20removed%20from,to%20remove%20protected%20native%20plants</a></p>

NEPA Guidebook Summary Table		
Topic	Explanation	Resources
Arizona Wildlife Corridors	GIS resources providing maps of Arizona wildlife corridors developed by the Arizona Wildlife Linkages Workgroup	AZGFD – Planning for Wildlife: Identifying Corridors: <a href="https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/planning-for-wildlife/planning-for-wildlife-identifying-corridors/">https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation/planning-for-wildlife/planning-for-wildlife-identifying-corridors/</a>  ADOT – Wildlife Linkages: <a href="https://azdot.gov/business/environmental-planning/programs/wildlife-linkages">https://azdot.gov/business/environmental-planning/programs/wildlife-linkages</a>
<b>Water Resources</b>		
Floodplains/ Wetlands	 GIS tool showing floodplains, wetlands, levees, and wild and scenic rivers—subgrantees may use the tool to determine the presence of these features within or near their projects and should coordinate with USACE regarding potential impacts on wetlands and waters of the U.S.	NTIA – Permitting and Environmental Information Application – Floodplains/Wetlands tab: <a href="https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0">https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0</a>
National Flood Hazard Layer Maps	Maps showing flood hazard layers—subgrantees may search by address to determine whether their projects fall within a floodplain	Federal Emergency Management Agency – FEMA Flood Map Service Center: <a href="https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home">https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home</a>
National Wetlands Inventory	GIS tool showing riverine and wetland locations—subgrantees may use the tool to determine whether their projects may cross wetlands	USFWS – Wetlands Mapper: <a href="https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper">https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper</a>
National Levee Database	GIS tool showing locations of levees—subgrantees may search by county, city, address, or levee name to determine whether their projects may affect a levee	USACE – National Levee Database: <a href="https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil/">https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil/</a>
USACE Civil Works Impacts	 Information regarding potential impacts to dams, basins, levees, channels, navigational channels, and any other local flood protection works built by USACE that would require a Section 408 permit—subgrantees whose projects may need a Section 408 permit should coordinate with USACE	USACE – Section 408 Permission Information: <a href="https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Section-408-Permits/">https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Section-408-Permits/</a>
Nationwide Permit 57	 Guidance from USACE regarding the use of Nationwide Permit 57, Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities, which applies to projects that would affect ½ acre (or less) of waters of the U.S.—subgrantees who may need the permit should coordinate with USACE	USACE – Nationwide Permit 57: <a href="https://saw-reg.usace.army.mil/NWP2021/NWP57.pdf">https://saw-reg.usace.army.mil/NWP2021/NWP57.pdf</a>  USACE – Regulatory Request System: <a href="https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs">https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs</a>
Impaired Waters	GIS tool showing impaired water bodies—subgrantees may use the tool to determine the presence of these features within or near their projects	NTIA – Permitting and Environmental Information Application – EPA Programs tab: <a href="https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0">https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0</a>

<b>NEPA Guidebook Summary Table</b>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Sole Source Aquifers	GIS resources showing impaired sole source aquifers—subgrantees may use the tool to determine the presence of these features within or near their projects	NTIA – Permitting and Environmental Information Application – EPA Programs tab: <a href="https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0">https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0</a> EPA Region 9 – Ground Water: Sole Source Aquifer: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/dwssa">https://www.epa.gov/dwssa</a>
Arizona Water Quality Databases	Online databases providing information on water quality and drywell registrations	ADEQ – Search Our Databases – Water Quality: <a href="https://azdeq.gov/databases">https://azdeq.gov/databases</a>
Arizona Construction Activity General Permit for Stormwater	Guidance regarding Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Construction General Permit, for projects that may disturb more than 1 acre of land (note that the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] would apply on tribal land)	ADEQ – Construction Activity General Permit (CGP) for Stormwater: <a href="https://azdeq.gov/AZPDES/CGP">https://azdeq.gov/AZPDES/CGP</a> EPA – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): <a href="https://www.epa.gov/npdes">https://www.epa.gov/npdes</a>
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>		
EPA Hazardous Waste Sites Information	GIS resources showing information on hazardous waste sites—subgrantees may use the tool to determine the presence of such sites within or near their projects	NTIA – Permitting and Environmental Information Application – EPA Programs tab: <a href="https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0">https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0</a> EPA – EnviroAtlas Interactive Map: <a href="https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactivemap/">https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactivemap/</a>
Arizona Waste Programs Databases	Online database providing information on environmental use restrictions, hazardous materials incidents, underground storage tanks, and leaking underground storage tanks	ADEQ – Search Our Databases – Waste Programs: <a href="https://azdeq.gov/databases">https://azdeq.gov/databases</a>
<b>Human Health</b>		
Radiofrequency Emissions	Discussion of radiofrequency emissions from telecommunications facilities and potential health impacts	Refer to Attachment 1 – FirstNet PEIS Arizona Chapter, Section 2.4, <i>Radiofrequency Emissions</i>
	Guidance regarding compliance with FCC guidelines for human exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields	FCC – Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields: <a href="https://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Documents/bulletins/oet65/oet65.pdf">https://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Documents/bulletins/oet65/oet65.pdf</a>
<b>Other Resources</b>		
Arizona Air Quality Databases	Online database providing information on air quality monitoring and attainment status	ADEQ – Search Our Databases – Air Quality: <a href="https://azdeq.gov/databases">https://azdeq.gov/databases</a>
Arizona Air Quality Permit Requirements	Information on air quality permits required at the county and state levels—subgrantees may need to obtain permits to address construction-generated dust	Refer to FirstNet PEIS review memo in Attachment 2 for information on air quality permits

NEPA Guidebook Summary Table		
Topic	Explanation	Resources
Airspace Obstructions	 Guidance regarding projects that may affect the National Airspace System—subgrantees with tower projects should coordinate with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as needed	FAA – Obstruction Evaluation/Airport Airspace Analysis: <a href="https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/oe3a/main/#/home">https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/oe3a/main/#/home</a>
Arizona Geology	GIS tool that provides information on natural hazards in Arizona, including earth fissures, earthquakes, landslides, and quaternary faults—subgrantees may use the information to inform their projects' design	Arizona Geological Survey – Natural Hazards in Arizona Viewer: <a href="https://uagis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=98729f76e4644f1093d1c2cd6dabb584">https://uagis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=98729f76e4644f1093d1c2cd6dabb584</a>
Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)	 Resources providing guidance on farmland protected under the FPPA and including a link to the AD-1600 form for evaluating potential farmland impacts—subgrantees should coordinate with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office if their project may affect prime and/or unique farmland	NRCS – FPPA: <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/land/cropland/farmland-protection-policy-act">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/land/cropland/farmland-protection-policy-act</a> NRCS – Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (AD-1600): <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/AD1006.pdf">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/AD1006.pdf</a> NRCS – Arizona State Office: <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/arizona">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/arizona</a>
Farmland – Soil Types	Online resource for identifying soil types, including those suitable for farmland	U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS – Web Soil Survey: <a href="https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/">https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/</a>
Noise Ordinances	Information on local noise ordinances—subgrantees may need to comply with such ordinances when construction noise would occur near sensitive receivers such as homes	Refer to FirstNet PEIS review memo in Attachment 2 for information on local noise ordinances
Railroads	 Online map of Arizona showing active and inactive railroads and their owners—subgrantees should coordinate with the railroad owner if their project would involve a railroad crossing	Arizona State Transportation Board – Arizona Railroads (Service Status and Ownership): <a href="https://aztransportationboard.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2021/03/2016-041516-Railroad-Map.pdf">https://aztransportationboard.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2021/03/2016-041516-Railroad-Map.pdf</a>
Visual Resources	Information on local scenic route designations—subgrantees with projects involving towers or poles may need to consider such designations as they plan their projects	Refer to FirstNet PEIS review memo in Attachment 2 for information on scenic route designations
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Online map of Arizona showing designated wild and scenic rivers	National Wild and Scenic Rivers System – Arizona: <a href="https://rivers.gov/arizona">https://rivers.gov/arizona</a>

*Attachment 1*

*FirstNet PEIS Arizona Chapter*

The FirstNet PEIS Arizona Chapter is available at the following link:

<https://www.firstnet.gov/network/environmental-compliance/projects/regional-programmatic-environmental-impact-statements>

*Attachment 2*

*FirstNet PEIS Review Memo*

# FirstNet Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Review Memorandum

Arizona Commerce Authority

BEAD Program

*Phoenix, Arizona*

August 2025



*Prepared for the Arizona Commerce Authority  
by HDR*

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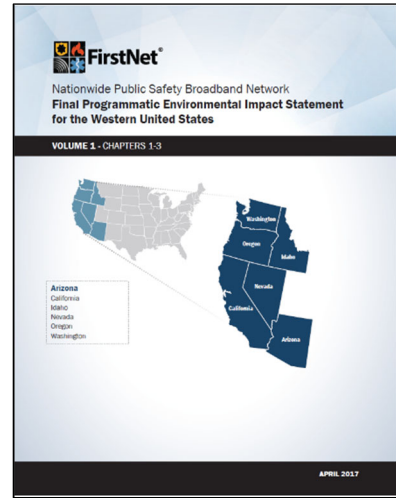
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## Overview

This document summarizes the findings of a review of the April 2017 *FirstNet Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Western United States, Volume 1, Chapter 3, Arizona*. The PEIS was prepared to document the environmental impacts resulting from implementing a nationwide public safety broadband network to support police officers, fire fighters, emergency medical service professionals, and other public safety officials. The PEIS has been adopted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to support tiered reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

The PEIS review was conducted to identify areas in need of revisions or updates to implement individual BEAD projects in Arizona. Specifically, reviewers identified:

- regulatory changes
- affected environment changes and data gaps
- environmental consequences changes and data gaps
- need to reevaluate/update resource analysis
- steps needed to update the resource analysis
- applicability of best management practices (BMPs)



## Sufficiency of PEIS Analysis

As would be expected, this review of the 2017 PEIS revealed the need for updates based on more recent available data. Regulatory changes were also identified in several areas based on recent direction from the current presidential administration. Several errors were identified where information for another state was included in the discussion for Arizona; these errors were likely an oversight by authors who worked on PEIS documents for other states in the western region.

Data gaps related to the discussion of the affected environment and environmental consequences in Arizona were identified for some resources, as follows:

- **Geology:** fossil localities, volcanic fields and activity, minor faults and fault zones, exposed geologic beds
- **Water resources:** watersheds
- **Biological resources:** Arizona native plants, Arizona Native Plant Law, habitat connectivity, reptile and amphibian species that do not rely on aquatic habitats, potential spread of invasive species related to construction
- **Visual resources:** county and municipal scenic route designations

- **Air quality:** permits and rules of state and local entities
- **Noise and vibration:** county and municipal noise ordinances or regulations and specifics of equipment types to be used

## Need for a Supplemental Environmental Document

NTIA guidance for the BEAD Program states that a supplemental environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) would be submitted only “if the evaluation identifies that PEIS information is missing, outdated, or analyses are otherwise deficient” (NTIA 2024a). The supplemental EA or EIS can be developed to “provide any information or analysis missing from the PEIS that is necessary for the programmatic review of BEAD projects in the state or territory” (NTIA 2024a).

In general, the data cited in the PEIS are outdated, and some Arizona-specific information is missing. However, addressing the old information and data gaps for the resources discussed in this memorandum would not be likely to affect the impact determination for the proposed BEAD projects. Therefore, a supplemental EA or EIS would not be needed. Instead, providing up-to-date and additional information is recommended, in the form of an addendum document.

NTIA guidance (2024a) also notes that the PEIS review should confirm that the deployment activities described in the PEIS cover the deployment activities anticipated for the BEAD projects. At the time of preparation of this memorandum, the BEAD grant applications were under review, and thus a final list of proposed projects and associated deployment activities was not available.

The following sections provide the review findings in table format, following the general structure of the PEIS document.

# Chapter 1. Introduction

Chapter 1 of the PEIS introduces the programmatic approach and NEPA tiering, and describes the project regions and purpose and need for the proposed action. It also describes relevant laws and executive orders (EOs).

## Section 1.1, Overview and Background

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

## Section 1.2, Programmatic Approach and Tiering

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA were removed from the Code of Federal Regulations under an interim rule issued on February 25, 2025 (90 <i>Federal Register</i> 10610). The interim rule took effect on April 11, 2025. Federal agencies have been directed to create their own regulations implementing NEPA within a year.</li> </ul>

## Section 1.3, Project Regions and Description of the Proposed Action Area

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

## Section 1.4, Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

Topic	Description
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PEIS describes the purpose and need for developing the FirstNet nationwide public safety broadband network, which focuses on emergency and public safety communications. A purpose and need statement should be developed for the BEAD Program, which focuses on expanding broadband service for unserved areas.</li> </ul>

## Section 1.5, Federal Agency Participation

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

## Section 1.6, Cultural Resources Consultation

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update consultation letter dates and the number of responses, as needed.</li> <li>EISs often include an appendix with the consultation letters and responses.</li> </ul>

## Section 1.7, NEPA Process and Public Involvement

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As noted previously, the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA were removed from the Code of Federal Regulations.</li> </ul>

## Section 1.8, Overview of Relevant Federal Laws and EOs

### Section 1.8.1, National Environmental Policy Act

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As noted previously, the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA were removed from the Code of Federal Regulations.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.2, National Historic Preservation Act

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.3, Endangered Species Act

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure interpretation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is still current, particularly concerning “harm” and habitat. A proposed rule by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on April 17, 2025, entitled <i>Rescinding the Definition of “Harm” Under the Endangered Species Act</i>. The summary notes: “The existing regulatory definition of “harm,” which includes habitat modification, runs contrary to the best meaning of the statutory term “take.” We are undertaking this change to adhere to the single, best meaning of the ESA.” Comments are due by May 19, 2025.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.4, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.5, Marine Mammal Protection Act

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.6, Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.7, Clean Water Act

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and edit definition of Waters of the United States based on current definition.</li> <li>Consider whether mention of individual state's Section 401/402 responsibilities should be included. For example, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) operates the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program under the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) program.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.8, Coastal Zone Management Act

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.9, Occupational Safety and Health Act

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.10, Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.11, Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.12, Executive Order 12898 – Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EO 12898 was rescinded on January 21, 2025 (The White House 2025a).</li> </ul>

### Section 1.8.13, Executive Order 13186 – Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>



### Section 1.8.14, Executive Order 13690 – Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No changes.</li></ul>

### Section 1.9, PEIS Organization

Topic	Description
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No changes.</li></ul>

## Chapter 2. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

### Section 2.1, Proposed Action

Topic	Description
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 2.1.2, <i>Proposed Action Infrastructure</i>, describes the types of proposed projects (wired, wireless, deployable, and satellite and other technologies). Should the BEAD Program include projects not covered by this section, a description of such projects should be provided.</li> </ul>

### Section 2.2, Description of Alternatives

Topic	Description
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

### Section 2.3, Alternatives Considered But Not Carried Forward

Topic	Description
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

### Section 2.4, Radiofrequency Emissions

Topic	Description
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections with numeric or cited data sources (Federal Communications Commission, Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA], etc.).</li> <li>This section “provides a general overview regarding RF [radiofrequency] emissions, the existing regulatory framework for limiting RF exposures, the general discussions on the current state of research for potential effects on humans, as well as information on animal and plant species, and some of the general conclusions on data gaps and the paths forward” (First Responder Network Authority 2017a: 2-10). It does not discuss RF with relation to the proposed action and alternatives and thus the reason for its placement in Chapter 2 is not clear. This section may be better suited for inclusion in Chapter 3, in Section 3.1.6, <i>Biological Resources</i>, and in Section 3.1.15, <i>Human Health and Safety</i>.</li> </ul>

## Chapter 3. Arizona

### Section 3.1, Affected Environment, and Section 3.2, Environmental Consequences

#### Sections 3.1.1 and 3.2.1, Infrastructure

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The description of what is included in Table 3.1.1-1, <i>Relevant Arizona Infrastructure Laws and Regulations</i>, could be clarified. Consider relevant sections in the Arizona Revised Statutes Title 49 (The Environment), Chapter 1; and in Title 28 (Transportation), Chapters 19 and 20.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections with numeric or cited data sources.</li> <li>Update information on public roads and bridges with newer Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) data from 2023 and 2024, respectively: <a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2014/?utm">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2014/?utm</a>.</li> <li>Description of rail network is correct but updated reference exists. See the <i>Arizona State Freight Plan</i> (Arizona Department of Transportation 2022).</li> <li>Description of aviation facilities references Sacramento County; description's accuracy for Arizona should be checked and correct reference should be provided.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections with numeric or cited data sources.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections with numeric or cited data sources as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate the more recent numeric or cited data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source.</li> </ul>

#### Sections 3.1.2 and 3.2.2, Soils

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Table 3.1.2-1, <i>Relevant Arizona Soil Laws and Regulations</i>, consider adding the Arizona Surface Water Protection Program and Arizona Administrative Code (AAC) Rules, specifically AAC Title 18, Chapter 9 (Department of Environmental Quality – Water Pollution Control).</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections with numeric or cited data sources.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections with numeric or cited data sources.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections with numeric or cited data sources as described above.</li> </ul>

Topic	Description
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate the more recent numeric or cited data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.3 and 3.2.3, Geology

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act and Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which cover paleontological resources on federal and public lands; these are the main federal laws that pertain to federal lands and/or federal undertakings for this resource.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add discussion of geologic setting for state.</li> <li>• Update Figure 3.1.3-3, <i>Generalized Bedrock Geology for Arizona</i>; the figure is from 1995 and more detailed maps are available.</li> <li>• Expand the discussion of bedrock geology in Section 3.1.3.5, <i>Bedrock Geology</i>, to capture the complexity of the resource.</li> <li>• Update oil, gas, and minerals metrics for Section 3.1.3.7, <i>Fossil Fuel and Mineral Resources</i>, since they are from 2015 and 2016. Also add discussion of mining districts.</li> <li>• In Section 3.1.3.8, <i>Geologic Hazards</i>, restructure the discussion of types of tectonic movements that cause earthquakes: divergent, convergent, and transform.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fossil localities and environmental descriptions in southern Arizona need to be added to Section 3.1.3.6, <i>Paleontological Resources</i>. Pleistocene deposits are not mentioned. Overall, section is missing general information on paleontology.</li> <li>• Mantle hot spots in Arizona created several volcanic mountains/fields such as the San Francisco Peaks and other obsidian sources. Arizona has three active volcanic fields that should be mentioned (currently dormant or in repose period): San Francisco, Uinkaret, and Piñacate Fields. Recommend including volcanic activity along with geologic hazards and elaborating relationship with earthquakes.</li> <li>• Provenience descriptions should be elaborated, including adding significant geologic and geographic features that are missing from the discussion.</li> <li>• In Section 3.1.3.4, <i>Surface Geology</i>, the main rivers creating alluvial deposits are not mentioned.</li> <li>• Arizona contains several minor faults and fault zones, which should be added to Section 3.1.3.8, <i>Geologic Hazards</i>.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update data sources for seismic activity and landslide risk.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Section 3.2.2.5, <i>Alternatives Impact Assessment</i>, for the Deployable Technologies Alternative, deployment impacts should take into account exposed geologic beds.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate the more recent data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source. Discussion of additional resources, such as faults and volcanic fields, may require additional background research.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.4 and 3.2.4, Water Resources

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Table 3.1.4-1, <i>Major Relevant Arizona Water Laws and Regulations</i>, the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 row contains information pertaining to Wyoming and needs to be revised to address Arizona specifics. Change state in first column, change district in second column to Los Angeles District, and edit waterbodies in third column to be Arizona-specific. Also update table data sources, as necessary.</li> <li>Add ADEQ as a regulatory agency for the CWA Section 404 row because the agency regulates non-federal waters in Arizona.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 3.1.4.3, <i>Environmental Setting: Surface Water</i>, should also reference washes/arroyos because most water features in Arizona are described as washes/arroyos.</li> <li>In Section 3.1.4.5, <i>Impaired Waterbodies</i>, update Table 3.1.4-2, <i>Section 303(d) Impaired Waters of Arizona, 2010</i>, and associated text and Figure 3.1.4-2, <i>Section 303(d) Impaired Waters of Arizona, 2010</i>, to reflect more recent information on impaired waters.</li> <li>Update sections with numeric or cited data sources.</li> <li>Update website links that are no longer functioning.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the <i>Watersheds</i> subsection, only three watersheds are discussed. Other watersheds in Arizona should be discussed or listed.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update website links that are no longer functioning.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate the more recent data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source. Discussion of additional resources, such as watersheds, may require additional background research.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.5 and 3.2.5, Wetlands

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise Table 3.1.5-1, <i>Relevant Arizona Laws and Regulations</i>, to include “Section 402” with “AZPDES Program.”</li> <li>Change Applicability under CWA Section 404 to NWP from NWP 12 to NWP 57 – Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update Table 3.1.5-2, <i>Arizona Wetland Types, Descriptions, Location, and Amount, 2014</i>, with revised acreages, if needed. Review National Wetland Inventory data to determine whether more up-to-date information is available.</li> <li>Update wetland acreage in text, if needed.</li> <li>Update conservation easement acreage in text, if needed.</li> <li>Update website links that are no longer functioning.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update wetland acreage in text, if needed.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>

Topic	Description
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate the more recent data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source.</li> </ul>

Sections 3.1.6 and 3.2.6, Biological Resources

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update Table 3.1.6-1, <i>Relevant Arizona Biological Resources Laws and Regulations</i>, to include the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980</li> <li>Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934</li> <li>Plant Protection Act of 2000</li> <li>EO 13112 – Invasive Species</li> <li>Arizona Native Plant Law</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update scientific names throughout section, as needed.</li> <li>Update text regarding species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) numbers, based on the <i>Arizona Wildlife Conservation Strategy</i> (Arizona Game and Fish Department 2022).</li> <li>Update the following as needed and provide updated citations:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>number of threatened/endorsed/candidate species in Arizona and associated critical habitat (for example, the monarch butterfly [<i>Danaus plexippus</i>] is now proposed threatened)</li> <li>number of SGCN species</li> <li>number of federally recognized noxious species</li> <li>numbers of mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, and invertebrate species</li> <li>number of nonnative amphibian species</li> <li>number of fish species</li> </ul> </li> <li>Review and update the background information provided for each threatened and endangered species.</li> <li>Update Figure 3.1.6-3, <i>ESA Designated Critical Habitat in Arizona</i>.</li> <li>Update website links that are no longer functioning.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add a subsection on Arizona native plants.</li> <li>Add a discussion of habitat connectivity. <i>Arizona’s Wildlife Linkages Assessment</i> (Arizona Wildlife Linkages Workgroup 2006) includes areas of connectivity, or Potential Linkage Zones, that would be useful to include in this discussion and carry into the environmental consequences section.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lacks a reference to the RF discussion pertaining to potential RF effects on species previously provided in Section 2.4, <i>Radiofrequency Emissions</i>.</li> <li>Review and update number of state-listed noxious plants.</li> <li>Review literature to determine whether updated data are available regarding mortality/injury to birds as a result of communication towers and RF exposure.</li> <li>For Section 3.2.6.6, <i>Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Conservation Concern</i>, update number of federally listed species in each section (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants) and update potential impacts as needed. Also, update the <i>Loss or Degradation of Designated Critical Habitat</i> section based on updated critical habitat designations.</li> </ul>

Topic	Description
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add discussion of how Arizona Native Plant Law would be addressed to Section 3.2.6.3, <i>Terrestrial Vegetation</i>.</li> <li>• The discussion of reptiles and amphibians seems to focus on impacts to aquatic or semiaquatic reptiles and amphibians; however, Arizona has numerous other reptile and amphibian species that do not rely on aquatic habitats.</li> <li>• The <i>Invasive Species Effects</i> section should include analysis of the potential to spread invasive plant species during construction of the proposed action.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate the more recent data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source. Discussion of additional issues and resources, such as habitat connectivity, the Arizona Native Plant Law, and reptile and amphibian species not associated with aquatic habitats, may require additional background research.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.7 and 3.2.7, Land Use, Recreation, and Airspace

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include Arizona Revised Statutes Title 9 (Cities and Towns), Chapter 5, Article 8; Title 11 (Counties), Chapter 6; and Title 28 (Transportation), Chapter 25.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update sections with numeric or cited data sources.</li> <li>• Add county-level information.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference county ordinances in impact determination.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate the more recent data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source. Discussion of additional issues and resources, such as county ordinances, may require additional background research.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.8 and 3.2.8, Visual Resources

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider using FHWA's <i>Guidelines for the Visual Impact Assessment of Highway Projects</i> (2015) as additional guidance. This guidance is pertinent because some proposed projects under the BEAD Program are expected to be located along highway rights-of-way and because the guidance includes consideration of both "neighbors" and "travelers."</li> <li>• Add information about state and county light pollution and dark sky regulations.</li> </ul>

Topic	Description
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correct the inaccurate description of vegetation on the Superstition Mountains.</li> <li>Update figures and tables describing national and state historic resources, parks, natural areas, etc. with any newly designated resources.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add text indicating that some Arizona counties and municipalities also designate scenic routes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate the more recent data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source. Discussion of additional issues and resources, such as light pollution, dark sky regulations, and local designations of scenic routes, may require additional background research.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.9 and 3.2.9, Socioeconomics

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that EO 12898 has been rescinded.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update discussion of economic benefits related to the provision of better broadband Internet service through the proposed projects under the BEAD Program, which specifically targets the provision of broadband service in rural and underserved areas.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As noted above, the discussion of economic benefits may be updated to reflect the expansion of broadband service in rural and underserved areas. Provide a qualitative discussion of the economic benefits related to expanded broadband access.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.10 and 3.2.10, Environmental Justice

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EO 12898 was rescinded on January 21, 2025 (The White House 2025a).</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>

Topic	Description
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.11 and 3.2.11, Cultural Resources

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note that Secretary of the Interior Order 3389 (issued December 22, 2020) changed Section 106 consultation requirements for the Bureau of Land Management, was since rescinded, but could be reinstated.</li> <li>• Potential changes in the role of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) may need to be addressed. The ACHP plays an important advisory role in oversight of Section 106 reviews; however, the Department of Government Efficiency has recommended elimination or streamlining of ACHP.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise Sections 3.1.11.6, <i>Historic Context</i>, and 3.1.11.7, <i>Architectural Context</i>, to provide more complete and well-written accounts of the historical and architectural contexts, in keeping with <i>Prehistoric Setting</i> section.</li> <li>• Add the Pueblo of Zuni to list of tribes in Section 3.1.11.4, <i>Federally Recognized Tribes of Arizona</i>.</li> <li>• Update the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ count of National Register of Historic Places-listed properties in Section 3.1.11.3, <i>Cultural and Natural Setting</i></li> <li>○ count of sites in Section 3.1.11.5, <i>Significant Archaeological Sites of Arizona</i></li> <li>○ Table 3.1.11-2, <i>Archaeological Sites on the National Register of Historic Places in Arizona</i></li> <li>○ counts of historic properties in Section 3.1.11.6, <i>Historic Context</i></li> <li>○ Figure 3.1.11-4, <i>National Heritage Areas (NHA) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Sites in Arizona</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate the more recent data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source. Expansion of the historic and architectural context discussions may require additional background research.</li> </ul>

Sections 3.1.12 and 3.2.12, Air Quality

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADEQ R18-2-101.144 is now ADEQ R18-2-101.146.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update Table 3.1.12-6, <i>Maricopa County Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)</i>, as follows:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24-hour primary standard should be 35 micrograms/cubic meter.</li> <li>PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual primary standard should be 9 micrograms/cubic meter.</li> <li>O<sub>3</sub> 8-hour standard should be 0.070 ppm.</li> <li>SO<sub>x</sub> 1-hour standard should be 75 ppb.                                  (<a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5288/Rule-510---Air-Quality-Standards-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5288/Rule-510---Air-Quality-Standards-PDF</a>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Revise section number references for Maricopa County Air Quality Department (MCAQD) permits (exemptions are now in Section 305) and check permit descriptions with the latest regulations.                                  (<a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5341/Rule-200---Permit-Requirements-PDF?bidId=">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5341/Rule-200---Permit-Requirements-PDF?bidId=</a>).</li> <li>Update Table 3.1.12-7, <i>Arizona Nonattainment and Maintenance Areas by Pollutant Standard and County</i>, and Figure 3.1.12-1, <i>Nonattainment and Maintenance Counties in Arizona</i>, to reflect the current attainment statuses using the latest information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Greenbook.</li> <li>Update pollutant data exceedances in the <i>Air Quality Monitoring and Reporting</i> section with more recent information.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss dust permit types and areas for the Pinal County Air Quality Department (PCAQD).</li> <li>Add discussion of MCAQD Rule 205 Mobile Emission Reduction Credits.</li> <li>Add discussion of ADEQ R18-2-D1301–D1303 (rules for PM<sub>10</sub> dust emission limits) for compliance with the Regional Haze Rule.</li> <li>Check whether any permit thresholds should be listed for ADEQ, MCAQD, PCAQCD, and Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ).</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add discussion regarding permits since they were discussed extensively in the affected environment section but not analyzed in the environmental consequences section. For instance, what activities/projects could trigger what permits?</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate the more recent data sources (ADEQ, MCAQD, PCAQD, PDEQ, and EPA Greenbook websites), update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source. Discussion of permits related to the environmental consequences of the proposed action may require more research.</li> </ul>

Sections 3.1.13 and 3.2.13, Noise and Vibration

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where applicable, agency citations should be updated to most current versions. It is unlikely the information derived from those citations will change content. For example, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) document, <i>Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment</i>, dates to 2006, and the latest version is from 2018—content from this resource remains accurate.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table 3.1.13-1, <i>Vibration Source Levels for Select Construction Equipment (VdB)</i>, is a general list from FTA’s <i>Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment</i>. Expand the discussion to indicate what kinds of equipment from that list are likely to be used for the types of projects discussed in the PEIS.</li> <li>Add a separate discussion of groundborne noise; it is unclear whether it is included with noise or vibration.</li> <li>Phoenix has neighborhoods and villages, not boroughs.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This section states that Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff are “likely” to have noise regulations applied to sources and maximum permissible noise levels; however, regulations are not defined.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table 3.2.13-1, <i>Impact Significance Rating Criteria for Noise and Vibration at the Programmatic Level</i>, mentions “state noise limits.” This needs revision/clarification.</li> <li>For Table 3.2.13-1, <i>Impact Significance Rating Criteria for Noise and Vibration at the Programmatic Level</i>, if 55 dBA is a noise impact, it would likely be mitigated below significance, so these types of impacts could go into the category of “Less than Significant with BMPs and Mitigation Measures Incorporated.” Potentially significant impacts are those that cannot be mitigated below specific thresholds.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The affected environment section provides an equipment list with the noise levels produced by different pieces of equipment. These should be carried to the environmental consequences discussion as backup for the conclusions of no impact, etc.</li> <li>Include any county ordinances in impact determination. State that local ordinances do exist and should be followed.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locate the more recent data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent citation. Discussion of additional issues and resources, such as equipment noise and county/local ordinances, may require additional background research.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.14 and 3.2.14, Climate Change

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EO 14008 – Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. The rescission of this EO on January 20, 2025, removes the CEQ’s guidance on climate change and GHG emissions.</li> <li>EO 14154 – Unleashing American Energy (The White House 2025b), all federal agencies have been directed to revise their NEPA implementing procedures. The greenhouse gas (GHG) measurement rule has been rescinded. Climate change and GHGs are no longer analyzed in NEPA documents.</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.15 and 3.2.15, Human Health and Safety

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On April 21, 2022, OSHA published its intent to revoke the final approval of the Arizona State Plan for Occupational Safety and Health in the <i>Federal Register</i>. On July 5, 2022, Arizona advised OSHA that the state’s plan had completed significant actions to address OSHA’s concerns as identified in the <i>Federal Register</i>. In light of this action, OSHA withdrew its proposal to revoke final approval of the state plan. Check the applicability of the revised state plan to NEPA and update the citation.</li> <li>Update all other citations (note that some citations are dates retrieved from websites, and these appear to remain accurate).</li> </ul>
Affected environment changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update Figure 3.1.15-1, <i>Number of Telecommunication Line Installers and Repairers Employed per State, May 2014</i>—the statistics are more than a decade old.</li> <li>Update BLS, WONDER, RCRA, brownfields, etc., statistics and counts to reflect the most recent information. Revisit EPA’s Cleanups in My Community and update the information.</li> <li>Update Figure 3.1.15-2, <i>TOXMAP Superfund/NPL and TRI Facilities in Arizona (2013)</i>.</li> <li>In general, the information in this section is old and could be updated, but updates would not affect the conclusions in the PEIS impact sections.</li> </ul>
Affected environment gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove all references to CEQ and associated Code of Federal Regulations citations.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes.</li> </ul>
Need to reevaluate or update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update sections as described above.</li> </ul>

Topic	Description
Steps to update analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate the more recent data sources, update the data as needed, and provide the more recent source.</li> </ul>

## Appendices

### Appendix C, Environmental Laws and Regulations

This appendix summarizes the federal laws and regulations, EOs, and guidance pertinent to resources discussed in the PEIS. Table C-1 lists the documents, and the table below highlights those that been updated.

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<p><i>Row: Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CEQ regulations implementing NEPA were removed from the Code of Federal Regulations under an interim rule issued on February 25, 2025 (90 <i>Federal Register</i> 10610). The interim rule took effect on April 11, 2025. Federal agencies have been directed to create their own regulations implementing NEPA within a year.</li> </ul> <p><i>Row: Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proposed rule by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on April 17, 2025, entitled <i>Rescinding the Definition of “Harm” Under the Endangered Species Act</i>. The summary notes: “The existing regulatory definition of “harm,” which includes habitat modification, runs contrary to the best meaning of the statutory term “take.” We are undertaking this change to adhere to the single, best meaning of the ESA.” Comments are due by May 19, 2025.</li> </ul> <p><i>Row: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CEQ regulations implementing NEPA were removed from the Code of Federal Regulations under an interim rule issued on February 25, 2025 (90 <i>Federal Register</i> 10610). The interim rule took effect on April 11, 2025. Federal agencies have been directed to create their own regulations implementing NEPA within a year.</li> </ul> <p><i>Row: Executive Order 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EO 12898 was rescinded on January 21, 2025 (The White House 2025a).</li> </ul> <p><i>Row: Executive Order 13653 Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EO 13653 was rescinded on March 28, 2017 (82 <i>Federal Register</i> 16093).</li> </ul> <p><i>Row: Council on Environmental Quality Draft NEPA Guidance on Consideration of the Effects of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EO 14008 – Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad was rescinded on January 20, 2025, removing CEQ’s guidance on climate change and GHG emissions (The White House 2025b).</li> <li>• EO 14154 – Unleashing American Energy (The White House 2025b) directs all federal agencies to revise their NEPA implementing procedures. The GHG measurement rule has been rescinded. Climate change and GHGs are no longer analyzed in NEPA documents (The White House 2025b).</li> </ul>

## Appendix E, Air Quality

Topic	Description
Regulatory changes	<p><i>Row: PM<sub>2.5</sub></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PM<sub>2.5</sub> Annual Primary Standard has been updated to 9 micrograms/cubic meter.</li> </ul>

## Best Management Practices

BMPs establish measures to be taken during construction to minimize potential environmental impacts. NTIA guidance (2024b) for the PEIS review calls for reviewing two sets of BMPs: (1) BMPs included in the 2017 FirstNet PEIS (Chapter 9 of First Responder Network Authority 2017b) and (2) BMPs developed for the BEAD Program in 2024 (NTIA 2024c). This review was completed, and it was found that the BMPs were suitable for application to projects under the BEAD Program, although additional BMPs and mitigation measures may be included in the environmental documents for specific projects, as needed. Note that the BMPs listed in the 2017 PEIS and in NTIA’s 2024 BMP document included those pertaining to environmental justice and climate change; as noted previously, the EOs pertaining to those topics have been rescinded.

## References

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# Addendum

This addendum to the FirstNet PEIS Review Memorandum provides additional information to address data gaps and outdated information identified during the review of the PEIS.

## Chapter 3. Arizona

Section 3.1, Affected Environment, and Section 3.2, Environmental Consequences

Sections 3.1.3 and 3.2.3, Geology

Topic	Description
Affected environment – additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicly available fossil locality information is available at the following website. The database does not depict all documented fossil localities in Arizona but provides a sample of what is present in the state and which locations have yielded specimens.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://paleobiodb.org/navigator/">https://paleobiodb.org/navigator/</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Publicly available proximate fossil locality information is also available on the Arctos database, an online collection of repositories from museums and universities around the world. Several specimens collected in Arizona appear in this database. <a href="https://arctos.database.museum/search.cfm?sp=preset_paleo">https://arctos.database.museum/search.cfm?sp=preset_paleo</a></li> <li>• The Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) system managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) depicts areas with the potential for fossils, ranked from 1 (very low potential) to 5 (very high potential), plus an unknown category (BLM 2016). All of Arizona is depicted in the PFYC system.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?url=https://gis.blm.gov/arcgis/rest/services/geophysical/BLM_Natl_PFYC/MapServer">https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?url=https://gis.blm.gov/arcgis/rest/services/geophysical/BLM_Natl_PFYC/MapServer</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• There are seven Quaternary volcanic fields in Arizona: Uinkaret, San Francisco, Springerville, San Carlos, San Bernardino, Sentinel, and Piñacate. The three youngest (Uinkaret, Piñacate, and Flagstaff's San Francisco Peaks) are considered active by researchers, with eruptions occurring as recently as 1,000 years ago (Arizona Geological Survey 2025).</li> <li>• There are six prominent Quaternary faults within Arizona: Hurricane Fault (Northern Arizona), Algodones Fault (Southwestern Arizona), Santa Rita Fault (Southern Arizona), Big Chino Fault (Central Arizona), Lake Mary Fault (North-Central Arizona), and Safford Fault (Eastern Arizona). Northern Arizona is part of the Intermountain Seismic Belt (ISB), which contains many active faults capable of producing moderate- to large-magnitude earthquakes. The portion of the ISB that extends from the Arizona-Utah border to the south-southeastern portion of Flagstaff is referred to as the Northern Arizona Seismic Belt (Conway and Young 2012). The Arizona Geological Survey and U.S. Geological Survey Quaternary Fault Database provide a comprehensive list of faults in Arizona.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://repository.arizona.edu/handle/10150/630769">https://repository.arizona.edu/handle/10150/630769</a></li> <li>○ <a href="https://www.usgs.gov/tools/interactive-us-fault-map">https://www.usgs.gov/tools/interactive-us-fault-map</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Arizona has three physiographic provinces, and their earthquake potential is noted below:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Colorado Plateau – part of ISB; moderate to large (less frequent) earthquakes</li> <li>○ Transition Zone – moderate earthquakes</li> <li>○ Basin and Range – capable of moderate to large earthquakes, but very infrequent</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Arizona is part of the North American tectonic plate. This Pacific plate boundary contains the San Andreas fault system and impacts Yuma, Wellton, Somerton, and other communities.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences – additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on proposed project locations, geologic units ranked as PFYC 3 to 5 and unknown could be affected. Excavations in PFYC ranks 1 and 2 would not have any negative consequences. Excavations exceeding 10 feet in depth in Holocene alluvial deposits and artificial fill could yield paleontological resources, especially when underlain by sensitive geologic units.</li> </ul>

### Section 3.1.4, Water Resources

Topic	Description
Affected environment – additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, 10 watersheds are found in Arizona: Bill Williams, Colorado – Grand Canyon, Colorado – Lower Gila, Little Colorado – San Juan, Middle Gila, Salt, San Pedro – Willcox Playa – Rio Yaqui, Santa Cruz – Rio Magdalena – Rio Sonoita, Upper Gila, and Verde. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://adeq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e224fc0a96de4bcda4b0e37af3a4daec&amp;showLayers=Counties;Watersheds">https://adeq.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e224fc0a96de4bcda4b0e37af3a4daec&amp;showLayers=Counties;Watersheds</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Sections 3.1.6 and 3.2.6, Biological Resources

Topic	Description
Affected environment – additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 73 ESA-listed species with current ranges believed to or known to occur in Arizona (42 endangered, 25 threatened, and 6 experimental population, non-essential species). The 73 listed species include 26 plant, 2 invertebrate, 2 amphibian, 5 reptile, 19 fish, 10 bird, and 9 mammal species. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-state?stateAbbrev=AZ&amp;stateName=Arizona&amp;statusCategory=Listed">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/species-listings-by-state?stateAbbrev=AZ&amp;stateName=Arizona&amp;statusCategory=Listed</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Arizona Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Species of Greatest Conservation Need are species in need of conservation efforts to prevent them from being listed under the ESA. This includes 209 invertebrate, 24 amphibian, 122 reptile, 35 fish, 291 bird, and 156 mammal species. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://awcs.azgfd.com/">https://awcs.azgfd.com/</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a federal noxious weed list with 19 aquatic species, 5 genera of parasitic plants, and 88 species of terrestrial plants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/weedlist.pdf">https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/weedlist.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Arizona Administrative Code R3-4-245, Noxious Weeds, identifies 60 listed noxious weed species. There are three categories of noxious weeds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Class A species (19) are those “species of plant that is not known to exist or of limited distribution in the State and is a high priority pest for quarantine, control, or mitigation.”</li> <li>○ Class B species (24) are those “species of plant that is known to occur, but of limited distribution in the State and may be a high priority pest for quarantine, control or mitigation if a significant threat to a crop, commodity, or habitat is known to exist.”</li> <li>○ Class C species (17) are those “species of plant that is widespread but may be recommended for active control based on risk assessment.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In Arizona, there are approximately 144 mammal species, 550 bird species, 110 reptile species, 30 amphibian species, and thousands of invertebrate species.</li> <li>• In Arizona, there are four nonnative amphibian species: American bullfrog (<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>), Rio Grande leopard frog (<i>Lithobates berlandieri</i>), African clawed frog (<i>Xenopus laevis</i>), and the barred tiger salamander (<i>Ambystomas mavortium</i>).</li> <li>• In Arizona, there are approximately 30 native fish species and about 60 nonnative fish species.</li> </ul>



Topic	Description
Affected environment – additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arizona is home to a wide variety of unique plant species found nowhere else in the world. A number of plant species are protected under the state’s “Native Plant Law” (Arizona Administrative Code R3-3-11). The law stipulates in what instances notification to the Arizona Department of Agriculture is needed and lists native plants by category: highly safeguarded, salvage restricted, salvage assessed, and harvest restricted. Many of the plants listed are cactus species, agave species, lily species, and orchid species, but many more species are listed.</li> <li>• Habitat connectivity in Arizona is limited by roadways, development, railways, canals, energy corridors, and border barriers. The Arizona’s Wildlife Linkages Assessment identifies areas in Arizona that could be used by wildlife as connectivity corridors. The document can help project proponents determine whether a project will impede wildlife connectivity and whether any measures can be taken to maintain or enhance connectivity.                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <a href="https://azdot.gov/business/environmental-planning/programs/wildlife-linkages">https://azdot.gov/business/environmental-planning/programs/wildlife-linkages</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Environmental consequences – additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project would need to consider vegetation removal that would remove plants protected under the Arizona Native Plant Law. Notification to the Arizona Department of Agriculture may be needed if native plants are removed.</li> <li>• Arizona is home to numerous reptile and amphibian species that do not rely on water sources. Project impacts that may affect these species should be considered during design and prior to construction. For example, Sonoran Desert tortoises, Gila monsters, and other terrestrial reptiles can fall into open and exposed trenches or pits during construction. A common mitigation measure to protect these species is to ensure that all trenches and pits are covered at the end of each workday. Additionally, reptile species may seek temporary shelter underneath construction equipment. Therefore, before moving any construction vehicles at the start of the workday, the areas around each tire and under the vehicles should be inspected.</li> <li>• Invasive plant species can be inadvertently spread on construction vehicles and other equipment when equipment is brought into the project area. Equipment should be washed and rinsed before entering the project area to ensure that dirt, debris, seeds, or pollen will not be transferred.</li> </ul>

Section 3.1.8, Visual Resources

Topic	Description
<p>Affected environment – additional information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Arizona counties and municipalities have designated scenic routes that should be considered for proposed projects, particularly those involving the installation of new poles or towers. See below for links to resources:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ City of Phoenix Scenic Drives: <a href="https://www.phoenix.gov/content/dam/phoenix/pddsite/documents/maps/planphx_scenic_drives.pdf">https://www.phoenix.gov/content/dam/phoenix/pddsite/documents/maps/planphx_scenic_drives.pdf</a></li> <li>○ City of Tucson Major Streets and Routes: <a href="https://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-services/planning-development-services/documents/msr_map.pdf">https://www.tucsonaz.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-services/planning-development-services/documents/msr_map.pdf</a></li> <li>○ Maricopa County Carefree Highway Scenic Corridor Study: <a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6760/Carefree-Highway-Scenic-Corridor-Plan-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6760/Carefree-Highway-Scenic-Corridor-Plan-PDF</a></li> <li>○ Maricopa County Castle Hot Springs Scenic Corridor Guidelines: <a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6759/Castle-Hot-springs-Scenic-Corridor-Design-Guidelines-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6759/Castle-Hot-springs-Scenic-Corridor-Design-Guidelines-PDF</a></li> <li>○ Maricopa County El Rio Design Guidelines and Planning Standards: <a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/50621/El-Rio-Design-Guidelines-and-Planning-Standards-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/50621/El-Rio-Design-Guidelines-and-Planning-Standards-PDF</a></li> <li>○ Maricopa County McMicken Dam Scenic Corridor Guidelines: <a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6758/McMicken-Scenic-Corridor-Design-Guidelines-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6758/McMicken-Scenic-Corridor-Design-Guidelines-PDF</a></li> <li>○ Maricopa County Olive Avenue Scenic Corridor Guidelines: <a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6763/Olive-Avenue-Scenic-Corridor-Design-Guidelines-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6763/Olive-Avenue-Scenic-Corridor-Design-Guidelines-PDF</a></li> <li>○ Maricopa County State Route 74 Scenic Corridor Guidelines: <a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6762/State-Route-74-Scenic-Corridor-Design-Guidelines-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6762/State-Route-74-Scenic-Corridor-Design-Guidelines-PDF</a></li> <li>○ Maricopa County Wickenburg Highway Scenic Corridor Development Guide: <a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6761/Wickenburg-Scenic-Highway-Corridor-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6761/Wickenburg-Scenic-Highway-Corridor-PDF</a></li> <li>○ Pima County Scenic Routes Plan: <a href="https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/020844cf-dcaf-49b7-9a56-2cf9af5af6b2">https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/020844cf-dcaf-49b7-9a56-2cf9af5af6b2</a></li> <li>○ Yavapai County Scenic and Historic Route Program: <a href="https://www.yavapaiaz.gov/Resident-Services/Public-Works/Roads-Division/Yavapai-County-Scenic-and-Historic-Route-Program">https://www.yavapaiaz.gov/Resident-Services/Public-Works/Roads-Division/Yavapai-County-Scenic-and-Historic-Route-Program</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sections 3.1.12 and 3.2.12, Air Quality

Topic	Description
Affected environment – additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maricopa County: Maricopa County regulatory thresholds for air permitting are listed by pollutant and threshold level in the MCAQD Permitting Handbook from April 2025: <a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/64549/Permitting-Handbook-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/64549/Permitting-Handbook-PDF</a>. Also, MCAQD Rule 205, Mobile Emission Reduction Credits, was adopted on May 21, 2025. The rule describes procedures for the voluntary generation, certification, and utilization of mobile source emission reduction credits from captive fleet vehicles for use as offsets. This could be achieved through replacement or retrofit of engines (such as a newer model year) and/or use of alternative fuels.</li> <li>• Pinal County: Particulate matter emissions are caused by construction activities, general earthmoving activities, and windy conditions. Pinal County has three types of dust permits, according to the geographic location: Apache Junction Nonattainment Area, General Area, and West Pinal Nonattainment Area. Pinal County’s Air Quality Dust Permit Application Map Viewer helps identify which permit is applicable and directs applicants to the appropriate dust permit application: <a href="https://intranet.pinal.gov/318/Dust">https://intranet.pinal.gov/318/Dust</a></li> <li>• Statewide: The Arizona Secretary of State published regional haze rules in ADEQ R18-2-D1301–D1303 on July 28, 2023. These rules address regional haze visibility impairment for each mandatory federal Class I Area within the state and for each Class I Area outside the state that may be affected by emissions from the state. These rules are required as part of the 2022 State Implementation Plan revision. These rules limit dust emissions through control measures from nonpoint sources such as construction sites and roads.</li> </ul>
Environmental consequences – additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on the emission source and attainment designation of the location of the emission source, an air permit may be required. The air permits most relevant for the expected types of broadband projects would be dust permits for dust-generating construction activities. Permitting thresholds vary by source type, governing air authority, and emission levels.</li> </ul>

Sections 3.1.13 and 3.2.13, Noise and Vibration

Topic	Description
Affected environment – additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many Arizona counties and municipalities have noise ordinances that would apply during project construction. See below for links to resources:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mohave County Ordinances that may pertain to noise: 2006-01, 2015-05, 1994-01, 1999-01, 2000-02, 2001-01, 2004-04, 2009-10, 2010-01, 2010-09  <a href="https://www.mohave.gov/departments/clerk-of-the-board/county-ordinances/">https://www.mohave.gov/departments/clerk-of-the-board/county-ordinances/</a></li> <li>○ La Paz County:  <a href="https://www.lapaz.gov/462/Ordinances">https://www.lapaz.gov/462/Ordinances</a></li> <li>○ Yuma County Code of Ordinances that may pertain to noise: Title 13, Chapter 133; Title 15, Chapter 150 &amp; 154; Title 21, Chapter 211  <a href="https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/yuma/latest/yuma_az/0-0-0-54103">https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/yuma/latest/yuma_az/0-0-0-54103</a></li> <li>○ City of Flagstaff:  <a href="https://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/Flagstaff/html/Flagstaff06/Flagstaff0608000.html">https://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/Flagstaff/html/Flagstaff06/Flagstaff0608000.html</a></li> <li>○ Coconino County noise restrictions, found in the County Zoning Ordinance:  <a href="https://www.coconino.az.gov/2208/Zoning-Ordinance">https://www.coconino.az.gov/2208/Zoning-Ordinance</a></li> <li>○ Yavapai County Ordinances that may pertain to noise: Planning and Zoning Ordinance for the Unincorporated Areas of Yavapai County, Arizona  <a href="https://www.yavapaiaz.gov/Development-and-Permits/Codes-Ordinances/Ordinances-and-Regulations">https://www.yavapaiaz.gov/Development-and-Permits/Codes-Ordinances/Ordinances-and-Regulations</a></li> <li>○ City of Prescott – Chapter 5.04 – Noise Control:  <a href="https://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/Prescott#!/Prescott05/Prescott054.html#5-4">https://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/Prescott#!/Prescott05/Prescott054.html#5-4</a></li> <li>○ Maricopa County Noise Ordinance P-23:  <a href="https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6559/Noise-Ordinance-P--23-PDF">https://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6559/Noise-Ordinance-P--23-PDF</a></li> <li>○ City of Phoenix – Nuisances and Noise:  <a href="https://phoenix.municipal.codes/CC/23_ArtI_Div2">https://phoenix.municipal.codes/CC/23_ArtI_Div2</a></li> <li>○ City of Mesa Noise Ordinance:  <a href="https://library.municode.com/az/mesa/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_TIT6P_0RE_CH12OFEXPRNO">https://library.municode.com/az/mesa/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_TIT6P_0RE_CH12OFEXPRNO</a></li> <li>○ City of Tempe Noise Ordinance:  <a href="https://library.municode.com/az/tempe/codes/city_code?nodeId=CH20NO">https://library.municode.com/az/tempe/codes/city_code?nodeId=CH20NO</a></li> <li>○ City of Peoria Noise Ordinance:  <a href="https://noisefree.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/peoria-arizona.pdf">https://noisefree.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/peoria-arizona.pdf</a></li> <li>○ Pinal County Noise Ordinance:  <a href="https://www.pinal.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7479/Noise-Ordinance-PDF">https://www.pinal.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7479/Noise-Ordinance-PDF</a></li> <li>○ City of Tucson Noise Ordinance:  <a href="http://tucson-az.elaws.us/code/coor_ptii_ch16_artiv_sec16-31">http://tucson-az.elaws.us/code/coor_ptii_ch16_artiv_sec16-31</a></li> <li>○ Pima County Noise Ordinance:  <a href="https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/pimacounty/latest/pimacounty_az/0-0-0-5193">https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/pimacounty/latest/pimacounty_az/0-0-0-5193</a></li> <li>○ Town of Pinetop Lakeside:  <a href="https://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/PinetopLakeside/html/Pinetop09/Pinetop0912.html">https://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/PinetopLakeside/html/Pinetop09/Pinetop0912.html</a></li> <li>○ Town of Apache Junction:  <a href="http://ajcity-az.elaws.us/code/apachejunction_az/10-1-12/">http://ajcity-az.elaws.us/code/apachejunction_az/10-1-12/</a></li> <li>○ Gila County – ordinance that may pertain to noise:  <a href="https://cms3.revize.com/revize/gilaaz/government/community_development/Docs/docs/Gila%20County%20Zoning%20Ordinance%20-%20Revised%2003-15-2022.pdf">https://cms3.revize.com/revize/gilaaz/government/community_development/Docs/docs/Gila%20County%20Zoning%20Ordinance%20-%20Revised%2003-15-2022.pdf</a></li> <li>○ Cochise County – ordinances that may pertain to noise – Zoning Regulations:  <a href="https://cochisecounty.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=ordinances#name=2_ZONING_REGULATIONS">https://cochisecounty.municipalcodeonline.com/book?type=ordinances#name=2_ZONING_REGULATIONS</a></li> <li>○ Santa Cruz County – ordinances that may pertain to noise – Zoning and Development Code:  <a href="https://santacruzcountyaz.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9059/Santa-Cruz-County-Zoning-and-Development-Code">https://santacruzcountyaz.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9059/Santa-Cruz-County-Zoning-and-Development-Code</a></li> <li>○ City of Sedona Noise Ordinance:  <a href="https://sedona.municipal.codes/SCC/8.25.030">https://sedona.municipal.codes/SCC/8.25.030</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Topic	Description
Environmental consequences – additional information	Depending on the deployment methods used, the following non-comprehensive list of equipment may be used during construction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• horizontal directional drill</li> <li>• directional bore</li> <li>• vibratory plow/cable plow/static plow</li> <li>• trencher</li> <li>• skid-steer loader</li> <li>• pile driver</li> <li>• rockwheel</li> <li>• excavator</li> <li>• bulldozer</li> <li>• digger derricks</li> <li>• drum winch/bullwheel puller</li> <li>• pull grips/support grips</li> <li>• strain relief devices</li> <li>• cable jacks</li> <li>• cable socks</li> <li>• cable rollers and guides</li> <li>• tractor-trailers</li> <li>• air compressor</li> <li>• cranes</li> </ul>

## References

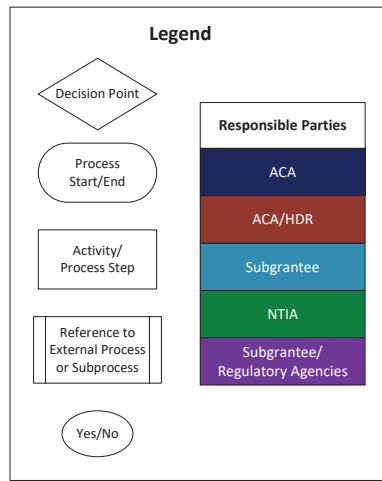
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*Attachment 3*

*NEPA, Permitting, and Compliance and Monitoring Process Flowcharts*

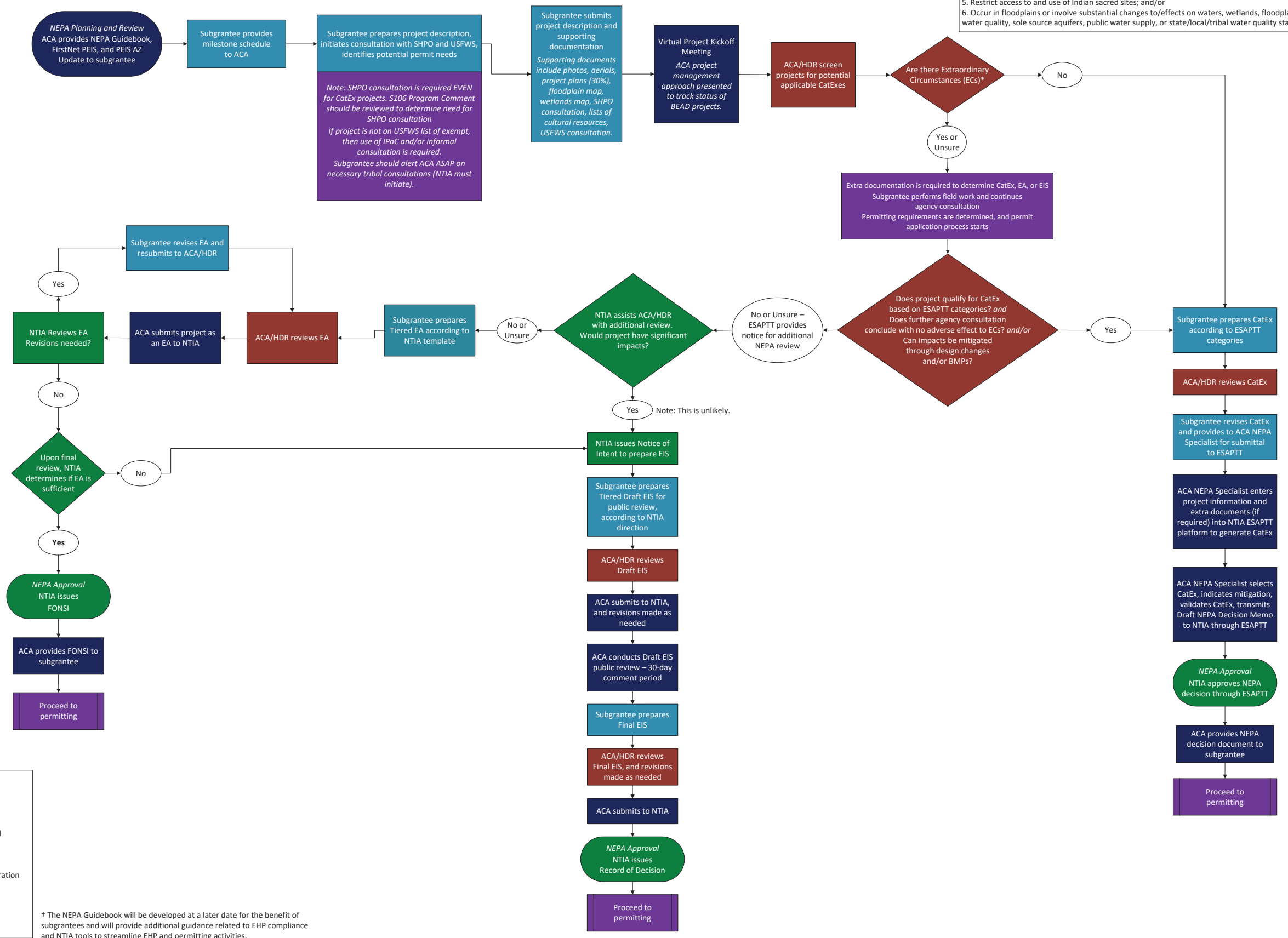
**ACA BEAD Program  
NEPA Planning and Review and NEPA Approval  
Process Flowchart**

This flowchart illustrates two of the five phases of the BEAD Program, as listed below:  
 1. Application Phase – interested parties submit grant applications and, once selected, become subgrantees and start the following processes after the Final Proposal is accepted by NTIA.  
 2. NEPA Planning and Review (shown here) – subgrantees begin the NEPA process and submit their NEPA documents for review.  
 3. NEPA Approval (shown here) – NTIA approves the NEPA documents.  
 4. Permitting – subgrantees obtain permits for their projects.  
 5. Compliance and Monitoring – compliance with NEPA and other requirements during construction is confirmed and monitored.  
 Refer to the NEPA Guidebook for more detail on all five phases of the BEAD Program.†



**\*ECs:**

1. Occur within an environmentally sensitive or unique geographic area of notable importance;
2. Adversely affect T/E species or critical habitat;
3. Adversely affect cultural properties;
4. Adversely affect protected birds/habitats;
5. Restrict access to and use of Indian sacred sites; and/or
6. Occur in floodplains or involve substantial changes to/effects on waters, wetlands, floodplains, water quality, sole source aquifers, public water supply, or state/local/tribal water quality standards



**Abbreviations and Acronyms**

- ACA = Arizona Commerce Authority
- CatEx = categorical exclusion
- EA = environmental assessment
- EIS = environmental impact statement
- ESAPTT = Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool
- FONSI = finding of no significant impact
- IPaC = Information for Planning and Consultation
- NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act
- NTIA = National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- PEIS = programmatic EIS
- S106 = Section 106
- SHPO = State Historic Preservation Office
- T/E = threatened or endangered
- USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

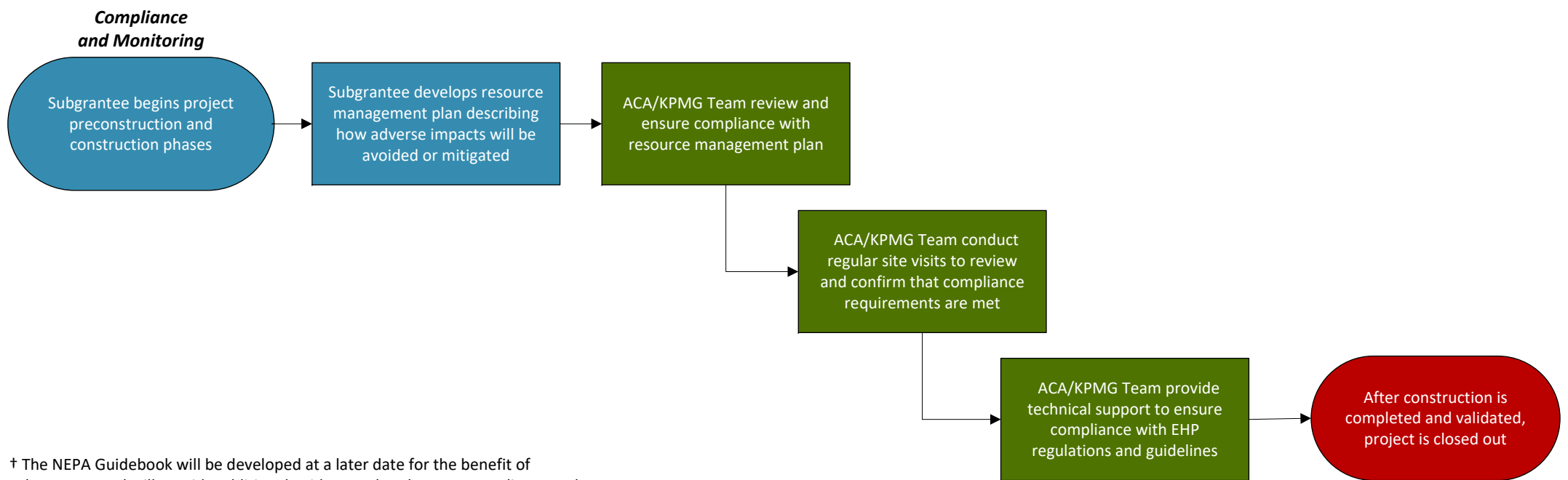
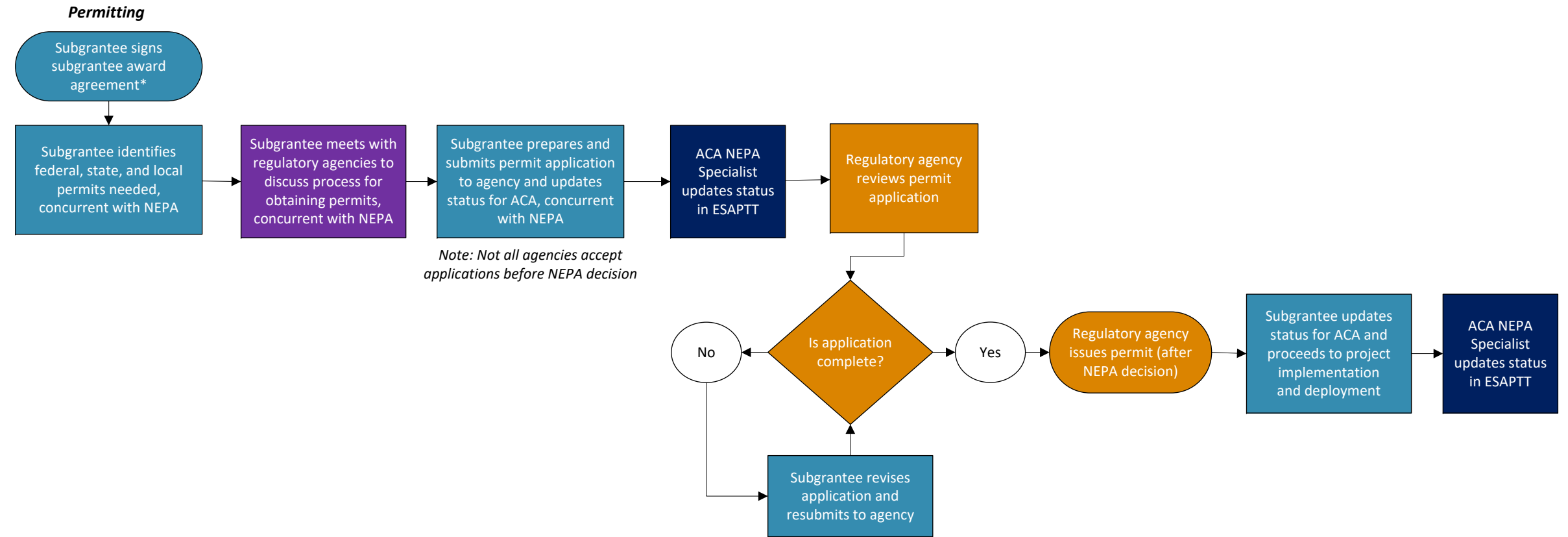
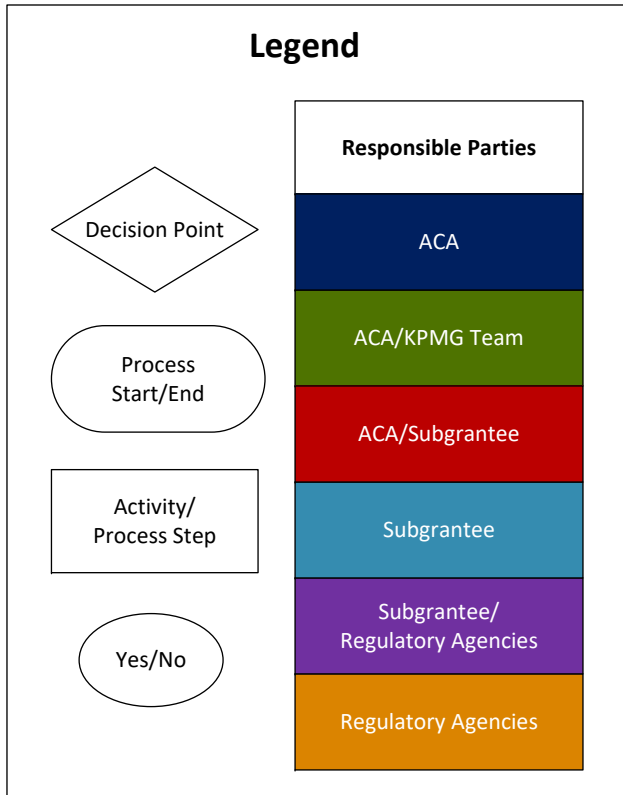
† The NEPA Guidebook will be developed at a later date for the benefit of subgrantees and will provide additional guidance related to EHP compliance and NTIA tools to streamline EHP and permitting activities.

# ACA BEAD Program Permitting and Compliance and Monitoring Process Flowchart

This flowchart illustrates two of the five phases of the BEAD Program, as listed below:

1. Application Phase – interested parties submit grant applications and, once selected, become subgrantees and start the following processes.
2. NEPA Planning and Review – subgrantees begin the NEPA process and submit their NEPA documents for review.
3. NEPA Approval – NTIA approves the NEPA documents.
4. Permitting (shown here) – subgrantees obtain permits for their projects.
5. Compliance and Monitoring (shown here) – compliance with NEPA and other requirements during construction is confirmed and monitored.

Refer to the NEPA Guidebook for more detail on all five phases of the BEAD Program.†



**Abbreviations and Acronyms**  
 ACA = Arizona Commerce Authority  
 BEAD = Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment  
 EHP = environmental and historic preservation  
 ESAPTT = Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool  
 NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act

† The NEPA Guidebook will be developed at a later date for the benefit of subgrantees and will provide additional guidance related to EHP compliance and NTIA tools to streamline EHP and permitting activities.  
 \* See attachment discussing ACA stipulations related to pre-award costs and approved activities.

*Attachment 4*

*ESAPTT Template*

*(Note: Excerpted from NTIA's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), NEPA for BEAD Version 2.0)*

## **Appendix:**

# **Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT)**

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## **Environmental Screening Questionnaire**

## ESAPTT

### Environmental Screening Questionnaire

This questionnaire previews information collected in the Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT).

Once NTIA creates NEPA Projects in ESAPTT from data collected with the final proposal, NEPA Users can access ESAPTT and upload a detailed project description and map to gain access to the Questionnaire. Questions and fields included on the form conditionally render in the online system and apply logic to identify potentially applicable categorical exclusions. Users must provide a response to each required question (denoted with \*) and upload required information before transmitting a draft NEPA Decision Memo to NTIA for review and approval. Additional instructions are provided within ESAPTT and in the ESAPTT External User Guide.

# Categorical Exclusions

Please answer the following questions to eliminate the Categorical Exclusions that do not apply to this project. You will then have an opportunity to select from the remaining potentially applicable Categorical Exclusion(s).

## Section 1

\* 1. Does the proposed project include the construction of buried and/or aerial telecommunications lines, cables, and related facilities? ⓘ

\* 1.1. Will fiber be added to transmission structures and/or buried in existing Rights of Way? ⓘ

## Section 2

\* 2. Will new or existing communications systems be acquired, installed, operated, or removed for the proposed project? ⓘ

\* 2.1. Will system instruments be retrofitted, upgraded, repaired, or replaced? ⓘ

\* 2.2. Will the activities described in this section impact a structure that is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places? ⓘ

## Section 3

\* 3. Select all infrastructure elements and related activities that are included in the proposed project scope and answer associated questions:

- (3.1) Towers and directly related structures
- (3.2) New construction upon or improvement of land and/or non-tower structures
- (3.3) Modification of existing fiber optic cable
- (3.4) Existing buildings, roads, airfields, grounds, equipment, and other facility modifications

### Towers and directly related structures:

\* 3.1.1. Select all actions applicable to the proposed project: ⓘ

- Siting
- Construction/Installation
- Operation/Maintenance
- Retrofitting

\* 3.1.2. Will the proposed tower actions require new ground disturbance? ⓘ

\* 3.1.2.1. What is the area of the ground disturbance? ⓘ

\* 3.1.2.2. Will the ground disturbance be located in a previously disturbed area? ⓘ

\* 3.1.3. Will the total height of any tower structure exceed 199'? ⓘ

# Categorical Exclusions – Continued

\* 3.1.4. Will any tower structure require guy wires? ⓘ

\* 3.1.5. Will the actions selected in 3.1.1 impact any National Register of Historic Places eligible structure? ⓘ

\* 3.1.6. Will the construction of any tower structure trigger an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement by another Federal Agency? ⓘ

## New construction upon or improvement of land and/or non-tower structures:

\* 3.2.1. Select all actions applicable with the proposed project scope: ⓘ

- Construction or modification of aerial or buried utility, or communication systems that use existing Rights of Way, easements, grants of license, distribution systems, facilities, or similar arrangements
- New construction in developed area or on previously disturbed site
- Land improvement in developed area or on previously disturbed site
- Construction or improvement of operations or support facilities, switching stations, maintenance facilities, other non-tower structures on previously disturbed ground
- Construction or improvement of new temporary buildings or experimental equipment on previously disturbed ground
- Construction, land improvement, or modification of structures in an undeveloped area or on a pristine (undisturbed) site

\* 3.2.2. Will any of the actions listed in 3.2.1 require new ground disturbance? ⓘ

\* 3.2.2.1. What is the area of ground disturbance for land improvements and non-tower structures? ⓘ

\* 3.2.2.2. Will the ground disturbance be located in a previously disturbed area? ⓘ

\* 3.2.3. Will any of the actions listed in 3.2.1 require ground disturbance in an undeveloped area or on a pristine (undisturbed) site? ⓘ

\* 3.2.4. Will all construction or improvement be compatible with local planning, zoning, and Coastal Zone Management Programs? ⓘ

\* 3.2.5. Will the site and scale of construction or improvement be consistent with the scale of existing, adjacent, or nearby buildings? ⓘ

\* 3.2.6. Does any construction or improvement require new local infrastructure (e.g., roads)? ⓘ

## Modification of existing fiber optic cable:

\* 3.3.1. Select all actions applicable with the proposed project scope: ⓘ

- Modifications, changes, or upgrades of existing telecommunication lines, transmission lines, or aerial or buried utility or communication systems
- Pole replacement
- Rebuilding existing power or telecommunication lines

# Categorical Exclusions – Continued

## Will pole replacements:

\* 3.3.2.1. Exceed 20% of the original pole quantity? ⓘ

\* 3.3.2.2. Be of similar appearance to the original pole structure(s)? ⓘ

\* 3.3.2.3. Be in or near the original pole location(s)? ⓘ

\* 3.3.2.4. Occur within the existing Right of Way? ⓘ

\* 3.3.3. Will any of the actions listed in 3.3.1 take place outside Rights of Way? ⓘ

\* 3.3.3.1. If outside Rights of Way, will action(s) be adjacent to Right of Way, new road, or easement? ⓘ

## Existing buildings, roads, airfields, grounds, equipment, and other facility modifications:

\* 3.4.1. Select all actions applicable with the proposed project scope: ⓘ

- Exterior renovation, addition, repair, alteration, or demolition
- Internal renovations or additions
- General minor renovations and/or additions
- Purchase, lease, or use of existing facilities (or a portion thereof)
- Conducting new activities or operations in existing structures
- Installing, operating, maintaining, retrofitting, upgrading, repairing, removing, and/or replacing instruments
- Collocating equipment on instruments, structures, or buildings
- Changes to existing telecommunication facilities (including upgrades, changes, or additions)
- Acquisition, installation, operation, and/or removal of communication systems
- Close facilities, decommission equipment, or temporarily discontinue use of facilities or equipment
- Phase or voltage conversions, reconductoring, or upgrading of existing electric distribution lines or telecommunications facilities.

\* 3.4.2. Will the actions listed in 3.4.1 result in a change in the functional use or operations of real property? ⓘ

\* 3.4.3. Will changes to telecommunications sites and structures require new physical disturbance or fencing of less than an acre? ⓘ

\* 3.4.4. Will the actions selected above impact any National Register of Historic Places eligible structures? ⓘ

\* 3.4.5. Will hazardous waste be disposed of at approved sites in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements? ⓘ

# Extraordinary Circumstances & Best Management Practices

'Extraordinary Circumstances' can preclude the application of a Categorical Exclusion and trigger additional NEPA requirements. Please identify whether any of the extraordinary circumstances in NTIA's NEPA rules apply to the project, upload the associated environmental information and analyses, and answer all applicable questions.

\* 1. Proposed action occurs within an environmentally sensitive or unique geographic area of notable recreational, ecological, scientific, cultural, scenic, or aesthetic importance. ⓘ

(1.a) Attach a map identifying the resource(s) and relationship to the project. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(1.b) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

\* 2. Proposed action may adversely impact species listed or proposed to be listed as Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species. ⓘ

\*(2.a) Will the proposed project have adverse impacts on Endangered or Threatened Species and/or designated Critical Habitat (including Essential Fish Habitat)? ⓘ

\*(2.b) Does the proposed project require the deployment of submarine or underwater cable? ⓘ

(2.a.M) Mitigation Commitments (Check all measures that will be implemented to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts. Upload any supporting documentation.): (Optional)

- Ensure revegetation of native plants and follow seasonal restrictions on construction activity.
- Assess locations of roost sites for bats and avoid bridge crossings during breeding and hibernation season.
- Avoid construction activities or relocate infrastructure in areas with known locations of habitats for threatened and endangered species and/or critical habitats.
- Consolidate facilities and/ or modify deployment types by using aerial and buried fiber segments to minimize habitat loss for threatened and endangered species.
- Limit disturbance to the ground surface and vegetation during construction activities, including avoiding activities within 1000 feet of bald eagle nests during the nesting season.
- Avoid suspected vulnerable plant species and avoid impacts to the road shoulder where they are suspected to occur.
- Avoid removal/disturbance of vegetation during bird nesting season, surveys for sensitive species.
- Conduct pre-construction surveys and minimize herbicide/pesticide application to prevent impacts to species.
- Use manual labor in place of heavy machinery to reduce impacts in sensitive areas.
- Implement monitoring programs, adaptive management strategies, and conduct worker training that is reviewed and approved periodically.
- Change the route location, reroute new aerial and/or buried fiber segments or other infrastructure.
- Avoid permanent disturbance of habitat and/or define seasonal restrictions to ensure construction occurs outside of nesting periods.
- Conduct pre-construction surveys and minimize herbicide/pesticide application to prevent impacts to species and/or critical habitat.
- Minimize underwater construction noise in all aquatic habitats by minimizing vessel speed, using quieter equipment or technologies, or deploying bubble curtains or other noise screens during underwater work.

Describe any other measures that will be implemented to mitigate the potential for impact(s). (Optional)

Upload any supporting mitigation documentation. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

# Extraordinary Circumstances & Best Management Practices – Continued

\* 3. Proposed action may adversely impact protected migratory birds or their habitats. ⓘ

(3.a) Attach any additional relevant documents. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(3.b) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

(3.M) Mitigation Commitments (Check all measures that will be implemented to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts. Upload any supporting documentation.): (Optional)

- Remove vegetation outside of the active nesting season for migratory birds.
- Avoid permanent disturbance of habitat and/or follow seasonal restrictions to ensure construction occurs outside of nesting periods.
- Limit disturbance to the ground surface and vegetation during construction activities, including avoiding activities within 1000 feet of bald eagle nests during the nesting season. Remove vegetation outside of the active nesting season for migratory birds.
- Conduct nest surveys for migratory birds prior to construction activities. Avoid permanent disturbance of habitat and/or follow seasonal restrictions to ensure construction occurs outside of nesting periods.
- To the extent feasible, avoid Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and other known important bird habitats. Limit disturbance to the ground surface and vegetation during construction activities, including avoiding activities within 1000 feet of bald eagle nests during the nesting season.
- Install migratory bird exclusion devices to discourage nest construction on tower sites, protection of any cave or other karst habitat. Conduct nest surveys for migratory birds prior to construction activities.
- Avoid development in areas containing high densities of breeding or wintering birds, in high wildlife use areas, migratory staging areas, and other publicly owned properties. Avoid Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and other known important bird habitats.
- Install migratory bird exclusion devices to discourage nest construction on tower sites, protection of any cave or other karst habitat.

Describe any other measures that will be implemented to mitigate the potential for impact(s). (Optional)

Upload any supporting mitigation documentation. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

\* 4. Proposed action may adversely affect historic, archeological, or cultural sites, including Native American Traditional Cultural Properties, properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. ⓘ

\* (4.a) Was a Program Comment for Federal Communications Project used for this project?

\* (4.b) Was a Duplicative Wireless Review Program Comment used for towers?

\* (4.c) Was a Programmatic Agreement or Memorandum of Agreement executed?

\* (4.d) Attach Section 106 Documentation (e.g., Program Comment form, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurrence, etc.)

[Upload a File](#)

Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

# Extraordinary Circumstances & Best Management Practices – Continued

(4.M) Mitigation Commitments (Check all measures that will be implemented to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts. Upload any supporting documentation.): (Optional)

- Contain all work within the disturbed portion of public right of ways and associated ditch back slopes.
- Implement approved Survey Plan.
- Implement approved Monitoring Plan.
- Engage a Tribal monitor in areas of sensitivity for Tribal resources.
- Implement mitigations formally established in a Programmatic Agreement or Memorandum of Agreement.
- Select infrastructure locations that are screened by topography and/or vegetation and that do not require noticeable permanent changes in landforms or vegetation.

Describe any other measures that will be implemented to mitigate the potential for impact(s) (Optional)

\* 5. Proposed action that restricts access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian practitioners or adversely affects the physical integrity of such religious sacred sites. 1

(5.a) Attach any relevant documents. (Optional)

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(5.b) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

\* 6. Proposed action occurring in floodplains or involving significant changes to or effects on waterbodies, wetlands, floodplains, water quality, sole source aquifers, public water supply systems or state, local, or tribal water quality standards established under the Clean Water Act or the Safe Drinking Water Act. 1

\* (6.a) Will any portion or element of the project occur within and involve significant changes to or effects on a floodplain? 1

(6.a.1) Attach Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map. (Optional)

Upload a File

(6.a.2) Attach any relevant documents. (Optional)

Upload a File

(6.a.3) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

(6.a.M) Mitigation Commitments (Check all measures that will be implemented to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts. Upload any supporting documentation.): (Optional)

- Implement management plan for water quality protection.
- Implement riparian vegetation management and restoration plan.
- Implement management plan for erosion and sediment control.
- Implement Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Implement Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC).
- Restrict construction activities on or near the river or within floodplains (other than modification to existing facilities).
- Ensure any development proposed in a floodway or floodplain meets or exceeds state or local regulations.
- Utilize materials storage and staging areas outside of waterways and floodplains.
- Utilize directional boring techniques or aerial deployment or attaching to existing bridges to avoid wetlands and floodplains. Avoid construction through waterways.
- Stay within existing infrastructure footprint and not disturbing surface water or floodplain resources.

Describe any other measures that will be implemented to mitigate the potential for impact(s). (Optional)

Upload any supporting mitigation documentation. (Optional)

Upload a File



# Extraordinary Circumstances & Best Management Practices – Continued

\* (6.b) Does the project involve significant changes to or effects on waterbodies or wetlands, including the deployment of submarine or underwater cable? ⓘ

\* (6.b.1) Attach U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory map.

[Upload a File](#)

(6.b.2) Attach any relevant documents, including, if applicable, details on the submarine cable deployment. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(6.b.3) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

(6.b.M) Mitigation Commitments (Check all measures that will be implemented to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts. Upload any supporting documentation.): (Optional)

- Implement management plan for Wetlands.
- Implement vegetation management and restoration plan.
- Implement management plan for water quality protection.
- Implement management plan for erosion and sediment control.
- Implement Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Implement Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC).
- Avoid above and belowground wetland crossings. When crossing a wetland is unavoidable, take advantage of already disturbed areas such as easements, roads, roadway shoulders, bridges, or old rail-road beds.
- Incorporate measures to minimize erosion, sedimentation, and turbidity from stormwater discharge during construction.
- Install perimeter silt fences and locating equipment refueling and staging areas on inactive roads or away from wetland and riparian area.
- Utilize directional boring techniques or aerial deployment or attaching to existing bridges to avoid wetlands and floodplains. Avoid construction through waterways.
- Obtain applicable Section 404 and Section 10 permits, Wetland Delineation Study, as well as a Water Quality Certification under Section 401.
- Stay within existing infrastructure footprint and not disturbing surface water or floodplain resources.
- Minimize in-stream work to the extent practicable. Route the stream crossing to minimize the number of waterbody crossings where waterbodies meander or have multiple channels.
- Maintain natural drainage patterns to the extent practicable by installing culverts in sufficient number and size to prevent ponding, diversion, or concentrated runoff.
- Minimize ground disturbance in or near waterbodies during construction, by minimizing the total area of bare soil, restoring native vegetation, and using erosion control blankets.
- Prohibit use of herbicides or pesticides within 100 feet of any wetland (unless allowed or required by the appropriate land management, tribal, or federal, state, or local agency).
- Avoid stockpiling material from directional drilling in a wetland, or where the stockpile could cause sedimentation into a wetland or dam water, causing flooding of a wetland area. Avoid setting up drilling equipment in a wetland.
- Conduct dewatering in a manner that prevents erosion and prevents heavily silt-laden water from flowing directly into any wetland or waterbody if dewatering during an excavation.
- Implement a marine observer program during construction and operation to avoid and minimize boat strikes.
- Do not permit the use of underwater blasting and pile driving activities in any waterbody.

Describe any other measures that will be implemented to mitigate the potential for impact(s). (Optional)

\* (6.c) Does the project involve significant changes to, or effects on water quality, sole source aquifers, or public water supplies? ⓘ

(6.c.1) Attach relevant maps. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(6.c.2) Attach any relevant documents. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(6.c.3) Provide any additional information to help explain your determination. (Optional)

# Extraordinary Circumstances & Best Management Practices – Continued

(6.c.M) Mitigation Commitments (Check all measures that will be implemented to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts. Upload any supporting documentation.): (Optional)

- Implement management plan for water quality protection.
- Implement management plan for erosion and sediment control.
- Implement Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Implement Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC).
- Avoid actions that could potentially impact a sole source aquifer.
- Maintain natural drainage patterns to the extent practicable by installing culverts in sufficient number and size to prevent ponding, diversion, or concentrated runoff.

Describe any other measures that will be implemented to mitigate the potential for impact(s). (Optional)

Upload any supporting mitigation documentation. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

*Pursuant to EO 14154, Unleashing American Energy (Jan. 20, 2025), EO 14096 has been revoked.*

7. Proposed action may have a disproportionate and adverse human health or environmental effect on low-income populations, minority populations, or other communities with environmental justice concerns, as defined in EO 14096. i

▼

\* 8. Proposed action involving construction impacts on or near an active, inactive, or abandoned contaminated or hazardous waste site, or involving non-permitted generation, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of substances hazardous to human health or the environment, unless NTIA determines the action is consistent with an approved remediation plan for the site. i

▼

(8.a) Attach any relevant documents, map identifying locations of known soil/water contamination and Site Specific Health and Safety Plans, Standard Operating Procedures for site preparation activities, and Emergency Response Plan, if applicable. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(8.b) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

\* 9. Proposed action would involve human exposure to ionizing or non-ionizing radiation or use of any radiation in excess of the Federal Communications Commission's established Maximum Permissible Exposure limits for human exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Energy fields. i

▼

(9.a) Attach any relevant documents, including equipment specifications sheet, if applicable. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(9.b) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

# Extraordinary Circumstances & Best Management Practices – Continued

\* 10. Proposed action is controversial because of the introduction or employment of unproven technology, highly scientifically uncertain or unique environmental effects, substantial disagreement over the possible size, nature, or effect on the environment, or likelihood of degrading already existing poor environmental conditions. <sup>1</sup>

(10.a) Attach any relevant documents. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(10.b) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

\* 11. Proposed action may violate a Federal, Tribal, state, or local law, regulation, policy, or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. <sup>1</sup>

(11.a) Attach any relevant documents. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(11.b) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

\* 12. Proposed size or scope of action is greater than is normal for an action of its type. <sup>1</sup>

(12.a) Attach any relevant documents. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(12.b) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

\* 13. Proposed action may cause other significant effects on human health or the environment that have not been otherwise addressed. <sup>1</sup>

(13.a) Attach any relevant documents. (Optional)

[Upload a File](#)

(13.b) Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

[View Qualifying CATEXs ▶](#)

*Attachment 5*

*Categorical Exclusions*

*(Note: Excerpted from NTIA's Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance)*

# APPENDIX B: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS

*The Categorical Exclusions applicable to NTIA programs and listed in this appendix as available for NTIA actions include categorical exclusions established by the Department of Commerce (2009), those established by NTIA (2024), and six categorical exclusions established by the First Responder Network Authority in 2018 and adopted by NTIA in 2024.*

## **Department of Commerce Categorical Exclusions (2009)**

**A-1** Minor renovations and additions to buildings, roads, airfields, grounds, equipment, and other facilities that do not result in a change in the functional use of the real property ( e.g. realigning interior spaces of an existing building, adding a small storage shed to an existing building, retrofitting for energy conservation, or installing a small antenna on an already existing antenna tower that does not cause the total height to exceed 200 feet and where the FCC would not require an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for the installation). This CE does not apply in instances where the project must be submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) for review and NCPC determines that it does not have an applicable Categorical Exclusion.

**A-2** New construction upon or improvement of land where all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) The site is in a developed area and/or a previously disturbed site,
- (b) The structure and proposed use are compatible with applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and local planning and zoning standards and consistent with Federally approved State coastal management programs,
- (c) The proposed use will not substantially increase the number of motor vehicles at the facility or in the area,
- (d) The site and scale of construction or improvement are consistent with those of existing, adjacent, or nearby buildings, and

(e) The construction or improvement will not result in uses that exceed existing support infrastructure capacities (roads, sewer, water, parking, etc.).

This CE does not apply where the project must be submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) for review and NCPC determines that it does not have an applicable Categorical Exclusion.

**A-3** Software development, data analysis, or testing, including but not limited to computer modeling in existing facilities.

**A-4** Siting/construction/operation of microwave/radio communication towers less than 200 feet in height without guy wires on previously disturbed ground.

**A-5** Retrofit/upgrade existing microwave/radio communication towers that do not require ground disturbance.

**A-6** Adding fiber optic cable to transmission structures or burying fiber optic cable in existing transmission line rights-of-way.

**A-7** Acquisition, installation, operation, and removal of communications systems, data processing equipment, and similar electronic equipment.

**A-8** Planning activities and classroom-based training and classroom-based exercises using existing conference rooms and training facilities.

**A-9** Purchase of mobile and portable equipment and infrastructure which is stored in previously existing structures or facilities.

**A-10** Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). This CE does not apply where the project must be submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) for review and NCPC determines that it does not have an applicable Categorical Exclusion.

**A-11** Personnel, fiscal, management, and administrative activities, such as recruiting, processing, paying, recordkeeping, resource management, budgeting, personnel actions, and travel.

## **NTIA Categorical Exclusions (2024)**

### ***Administrative Actions***

**A-1** Personnel, fiscal, management, and administrative activities, including recruiting, processing, paying, recordkeeping, budgeting, personnel actions, contract administration, and travel.

**A-2** Preparation, modification, and issuance of policy directives, rules, regulations, procedures, guidelines, guidance documents, bulletins, and informational publications that are of an administrative, financial, legal, technical, or procedural nature, for which the environmental effects are too broad, speculative, or conjectural to lend themselves to meaningful analysis and will be, in whole or part, subject later to the NEPA process, either collectively or on a case-by-case basis.

**A-3** Studies and engineering undertaken to define proposed actions or alternatives sufficiently so that environmental effects can be assessed.

**A-4** Planning, educational, informational, or advisory activities provided to other agencies, public and private entities, visitors, individuals, or the public, including training exercises and simulations conducted under appropriately controlled conditions and in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements.

**A-5** Software development, data analysis, or testing that does not involve ground disturbing activities.

**A-6** Preparation and dissemination of scientific results, studies, surveys, audits, reports, plans, papers, recommendations, and technical advice.

**A-7** Technical assistance to other Federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies or the public.

**A-8** Routine procurement, use, storage, transportation, and disposal of non-hazardous goods and services in support of administrative, operational, or maintenance activities in accordance with Executive Orders and Federal procurement guidelines. Examples include office supplies and furniture; equipment; mobile assets (i.e., vehicles, vessels, aircraft); utility services; and deployable emergency response supplies and equipment.

**A-9** Purchase of deployable mobile and portable telecommunications equipment (e.g., radios, Cell on Wheels, Cell on Light Truck, System on Wheels) that will be housed in existing facilities when not deployed.

**A-10** Routine use of hazardous materials (including procurement, transportation, distribution, and storage of such materials) and reuse, recycling, and disposal of solid, medical, radiological, or hazardous waste in a manner that is consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements. Examples include use of chemicals for laboratory applications; refueling of storage tanks; temporary storage and disposal of solid waste; disposal of waste through manufacturer return and recycling programs; and hazardous waste minimization activities, including source reduction activities and recycling.

**A-11** Reductions, realignments, or relocation of personnel, equipment, or mobile assets that do not result in changing the use of NTIA facilities or space in such a way that could cause a change to existing environmental effects or exceed the infrastructure capacity outside of NTIA-managed property. An example of exceeding the infrastructure capacity would be an increase in vehicular traffic beyond the capacity of the supporting road network to accommodate such an increase.

**A-12** Federal assistance, grants, and external funding for activities that do not concern environmental matters or where the environmental effects are negligible. Examples of relevant activities could include, but are not limited to, planning, studies, or programs such as the Digital TV transition, which provided rebates to consumers to subsidize the purchase of digital antennas, that have no potential to impact the environment. If an analysis determined that such activities had the potential to impact the environment, the CE could not be applied.

**A-13** Contracts, collaborative research agreements, cooperative research and development agreements, interagency agreements, and other agreements that do not concern environmental matters or where the environmental effects are negligible.

### ***Real Property/Facility Actions***

**B-1** Maintenance of facilities, equipment, and grounds. Examples include interior utility work, road maintenance, window washing, lawn mowing, landscaping, weed management/maintenance, trash collecting, facility cleaning, and snow removal.

**B-2** Internal modifications, renovations, or additions (e.g., computer facilities, relocating interior walls) to structures or buildings that do not result in a change in the functional use of the property.

**B-3** Exterior renovation, addition, repair, alteration, and demolition projects affecting buildings, roads, grounds, equipment, and other facilities, including subsequent disposal of debris, which may be contaminated with hazardous materials, lead, or asbestos. Hazardous materials must be disposed of at approved sites in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements. Examples include the following:

- (i) Painting, roofing, siding, or alterations to an existing building;
- (ii) Adding a small storage shed to an existing building;
- (iii) Retrofitting for energy conservation, including weatherization, installation of timers on hot water heaters, installation of energy efficient lighting, and installation of low-flow plumbing fixtures; or
- (iv) Closing and demolishing a building not eligible for listing under the National Register for Historic Places.

**B-4** Abatement of hazardous materials from existing facilities, including asbestos and lead based paint, conducted in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements established for the protection of human health and the environment. Examples include containment, removal, and disposal of lead-based paint or asbestos tiles and asbestos-containing materials from existing facilities, remediation of hazardous materials in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements as part of facility and space management activities.

**B-5** Proposed new activities and operations conducted in an existing structure that would be consistent with previously established safety levels and would not result in a change in use of the facility. Examples include new types of research, development, testing, and evaluation activities, and laboratory operations conducted within existing enclosed facilities designed to support research and development activities.

**B-6** Acquisition or use of existing facilities or portion thereof by purchase, lease, or use agreement where use or operation will remain unchanged. Examples include acquiring office space through lease, purchase, or use agreement, and acquisition of laboratory space through lease, purchase, or use agreement.

**B-7** Transfer of administrative control over real property, including related personal property, between another Federal agency and NTIA that does not result in a change in the functional use of the property. Examples include transfer of facilities for use by NTIA, transfers of computer equipment, office equipment, and personal property, including laptops and cell phones.

**B-8** Decisions and actions to close facilities, decommission equipment, or temporarily discontinue use of facilities or equipment, where the facility or equipment, including office equipment, telecommunications equipment, and computer equipment, is not used to prevent or control environmental impacts.

**B-9** The determination and disposal of real property, such as excess office space, or personal property, including laptops and cell phones, that is excess to the needs of NTIA, when the real property or personal property is excessed in conformity with applicable General Services Administration procedures or is statutorily authorized to be excessed.

### ***Operational Actions***

**C-1** Research activities conducted in laboratories and facilities where research practices and safeguards prevent environmental impacts. Examples include types of research, development, testing, and evaluation activities, and laboratory operations conducted within existing enclosed facilities designed to support research and development activities.

**C-2** Outdoor research activities conducted in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements. Examples include types of research, development, testing, and evaluation activities conducted outdoors where no new ground disturbance occurs and no sensitive resources (e.g., threatened or endangered species, archaeological sites, Tribal resources, wetlands, and waterbodies) are present, such as radar testing, radio noise measurements, and public safety communications research.

**C-3** Periodic flight activities for training and research and development, that are routine and comply with all applicable laws, Federal Aviation Administration regulations, and other requirements.

**C-4** New construction or improvement of land, operations, or support facilities, switching stations, maintenance facilities, and other non-tower structures supporting wired or wireless communications systems in a developed area and/or on previously disturbed ground, with no more than 1 acre (0.4 hectare) of ground disturbance, where the proposed facility use is generally compatible with the surrounding land use and applicable zoning standards, and will not require additional support infrastructure.

**C-5** Installing, operating, maintaining, retrofitting, upgrading, repairing, removing, and/or replacement of existing microwave or radio communication towers, instruments, structures, or buildings that do not require ground disturbance outside of the original footprint, including installing or collocating equipment such as antennas, microwave dishes, or power units. For communications towers at or below 199 feet, renovations and equipment additions must not cause the total height of the tower to exceed 199 feet. Existing structures must not be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> In response to comments expressing support for existing Departmental CEs including those of FirstNet, NTIA notes that establishment of these new CEs does not preclude the use of Departmental or other CEs that may be otherwise available to NTIA where they apply to a proposed action. Note that two existing Department of Commerce CEs (the Department's A-4 and FirstNet's B-7) may be applicable to related actions. A-4 allows *Siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of microwave/radio communication towers less than 200 feet in height without guy wires on previously disturbed ground*. FirstNet's B-7 provides that: *Changes or additions, including retrofit and upgrade, to telecommunications sites, towers under 200 feet,*

**C-6** New construction or improvement of temporary buildings or experimental equipment (e.g., trailers, prefabricated buildings, and test slabs) on previously disturbed ground, with no more than 1 acre (0.4 hectare) of ground disturbance, where the proposed facility use is generally compatible with the surrounding land use and applicable zoning standards and will not require additional support infrastructure.

**C-7** New construction of self-supporting (e.g., monopole or lattice) wireless communication towers at or below 199 feet with no guy wires that require less than 1 acre (0.4 hectare) of ground disturbance, and where another Federal agency would not require an EA or EIS for its acquisition, installation, operations, or maintenance.

**C-8** Acquisition, installation, reconstruction, repair by replacement, and operation of aerial or buried utility (e.g., water, sewer, electrical), communication (e.g., fiber optic cable, data processing cable and similar electronic equipment), and security systems that use existing rights-of-way, easements, grants of license, distribution systems, facilities, or similar arrangements.<sup>4</sup>

### **First Responder Network Authority Categorical Exclusions (Adopted 2024)**

In assessing whether one of these proposed actions has the potential to result in significant effects, NTIA will consider the extraordinary circumstances established in the FirstNet Authority's NEPA procedures<sup>5</sup> in addition to the NTIA extraordinary circumstances established in Appendix C of this guidance.

**[B.3.]** Construction of buried and aerial telecommunications lines, cables, and related facilities.

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*substations, switching stations, telecommunications switching or multiplexing centers, buildings, or small structures requiring new physical disturbance or fencing of less than one acre (0.4 hectare).*

<sup>4</sup> In response to comments expressing support for existing Departmental CEs including those of FirstNet, NTIA notes that establishment of these new CEs does not preclude the use of Departmental or other CEs that may be otherwise available to NTIA where they apply to proposed actions involving buried and aerial lines, cables, and related facilities.

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix C, <https://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/resources/policy/revised-firstnet-authority-nepa-implementing-procedures>.

**[B.4.]** Changes to existing transmission lines that involve less than 20 percent pole replacement, or the complete rebuilding of existing distribution lines within the same right-of-way. Changes to existing transmission lines that require 20 percent or greater pole replacement will be considered the same as new construction.

**[B.7.]** Changes or additions to telecommunication sites, substations, switching stations, telecommunications switching or multiplexing centers, buildings, or small structures requiring new physical disturbance or fencing of less than one acre (0.4 hectare).

**[B.12.]** Rebuilding of power lines or telecommunications cables where road or highway reconstruction requires the Applicant to relocate the lines either within or adjacent to the new road or highway easement or right-of-way.

**[B.13.]** Phase or voltage conversions, reconductoring, or upgrading of existing electric distribution lines or telecommunications facilities.

**[B.15.]** Deployment of Cells on Wheels, Systems on Wheels, or another deployable architecture intended for temporary placement (no more than two years) on an impervious surface.