



# Council on Environmental Quality

## *NEPA Infrastructure*



*Ted Boling*

*Associate Director for the National Environmental Policy Act  
Council on Environmental Quality*



# NEPA - Infrastructure

Council on Environmental Quality

- Executive Order 13807, Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects
- Draft Guidance on the Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions under NEPA
- Environmental Impact Statement Timelines & Average Length
- Categorical Exclusions



# FAST Act Title 41 (FAST-41)

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- FAST-41, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4370m *et seq.*, created a governance structure (the “Permitting Council” and Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officers) to improve the environmental review and authorization process for covered projects.  
<https://www.permits.performance.gov/projects>.
- The Permitting Council promotes early, formalized coordination on covered projects and encourages early outreach to States, tribes, and local governments as part of that effort.
- Alex Herrgott, Executive Director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, appointed by the President.



# FAST-41 Interagency Governance Structure

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FAST-41 establishes a set of roles and responsibilities for the new Executive Director, FPISC, agency CERPOs, OMB and CEQ:

## **Executive Director:**

- Chair Council
- Develop and maintain inventory of “covered projects”
- Designate facilitating agencies
- Develop model performance schedules
- Submit annual progress report to Congress on agencies’ compliance with best practices/review timelines
- Adjudicate requests for timeline extensions of >30 days
- Facilitate resolution of disputes regarding timelines

## **Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC):**

- Advise ED on facilitating agency designations
- Meet at least annually with State, tribal and local government stakeholders
- Develop “best practices” for a range of permitting activities
- Develop best practices and recommendations for State-delegated programs

## **Chief Environmental Review and Permitting Officers (CERPOs)**

- Advise their agency’s Councilmember
- Provide TA to facilitate timely reviews
- Analyze agency policies, processes, and authorities and recommend improvements

## **OMB Director:**

- Serve as member of Council
- Provide guidance on recommendation of E.D. in consultation w/Council & CEQ
- *Facilitate resolution of disputes regarding timelines with CEQ*
- *Adjudicate requests for timeline extensions that exceed 50% of total schedule*
- Provide guidance on fee regulations
- Approve funding transfers from Fund to agencies

## **CEQ Chair:**

- Serve as member of Council
- Issue guidance to effectuate adoption of NEPA-related provisions
- Resolve disputes over lead and “facilitating agency” designation



# FAST Act Title 41: Covered Projects

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- Any activity in the U.S. that requires authorization or environmental review by a Federal agency .... Involving construction of infrastructure in a designated sector:
    - Renewable or conventional energy - production
    - Electricity transmission
    - Surface transportation\*
    - Aviation
    - Ports and waterways\*
    - Water resource projects\*
    - Broadband
    - Pipelines
    - Manufacturing
    - Any other sector as determined by a majority vote of the Council
  - ...that **is** subject to NEPA, and
    - Does not qualify for an abbreviated review process and is likely to cost more than \$200M; or
    - Is of a size/complexity likely to benefit from enhanced oversight/coordination in the opinion of the Council, including:
      - Projects likely to require an Environmental Impact Statement
      - Projects likely to require reviews from more than 2 Federal agencies
- \***Exemption:** Does not include projects subject to Section 139 of MAP-21 or Section 2045 of WRDA (2007)



# Permitting Dashboard – Mapping Page

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**PERMITTING DASHBOARD**  
FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ABOUT PROJECTS RESOURCES & TOOLS MAP

Home » Projects

## Project Map

Click on the dots below to display individual projects. Use the 'Overlay' box at the bottom of the map to reveal or hide projects based on their classification. Learn more about Permitting Dashboard projects' classification categories here: <https://www.permits.performance.gov/projects>.



# Permitting Dashboard – List of Covered Projects

FAST-41 Covered Projects

DOT Projects

Other Tracked Projects

Legacy Projects

The infrastructure projects below are identified as Covered Projects under Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Title▲	Lead Agency	Bureau/Mode	Sector	Project Type	Status
Aiya Solar Project (Moapa)	Department of Interior	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Renewable Energy Production	Solar	Paused
Alaska LNG Project	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Pipelines	Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal Facilities (Onshore or in State Water), and associated Natural Gas Pipelines	In Progress
Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Atlantic Coast Pipeline Amendment, Supply Header, and ACP-Piedmont Lease	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Pipelines	Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines	Complete
Atlantic Sunrise	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Pipelines	Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines	Complete
Bay State Wind Project	Department of Interior	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Renewable Energy Production	Wind: Federal Offshore	Planned
Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line	Department of Interior	Bureau of Land Management	Electricity Transmission	Electricity Transmission (all)	In Progress
Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345 kV Transmission Line Project	Department of Agriculture	Rural Development	Electricity Transmission	Rural Transmission	In Progress
Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Energy (Phase 1)	Department of Interior	Bureau of Land Management	Renewable Energy Production	Wind: Other than Federal Offshore	Complete
Chokecherry/Sierra Madre Wind, Phase II	Department of Interior	Bureau of Land Management	Renewable Energy Production	Wind: Other than Federal Offshore	In Progress

# Permitting Dashboard – Project Description

## Hudson River Rebuild by Design Project : Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge

**PROJECT WEBSITE:** [NJDEP-Flood Hazard Risk](#)

All dates below are specific to the schedule of the Environmental Review and Permitting processes for this project.



PROJECT STATUS  
COMPLETE



COMPLETION DATE  
Oct 09 2017



### Primary Location

**City:** Hoboken  
**State:** New Jersey  
**Zip Code:** 07030

### Lead Agency Information:

**POC Name:** Donna Mahon  
**POC Title:** Field Environmental Officer - Region 2  
**POC Email:** [Donna.M.Mahon@hud.gov](mailto:Donna.M.Mahon@hud.gov)  
**Agency/Department:** Housing and Urban Development  
**Bureau/Mode:** Community Planning and Development/Community Development Fund

### Sponsor Contact Information:

**Project Sponsor:** NJ Department of Community Affairs and NJ Department of Environmental Protection Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
AND PERMITTING PROCESSES  
COMPLETED



SECTOR  
Water Resources



CATEGORY  
FAST-41 Covered Projects



LEAD AGENCY  
Housing and Urban  
Development

### Description:

The Rebuild by Design- Hudson River: Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge project is a comprehensive urban stormwater management strategy to address impacts from coastal storm surge flooding as well as systemic inland rain flooding. HUD awarded funds to the State of New Jersey for Phase 1 of this comprehensive project. Phase 1 includes the (1) a master plan for the entire strategy, (2) studies and pilot projects on various aspects of the overall strategy, and (3) the following catalytic projects: coastal defense at Hoboken Station and surroundings, coastal defense at Weehawkin Cove, and pump station and CSO wetland pilot project. The

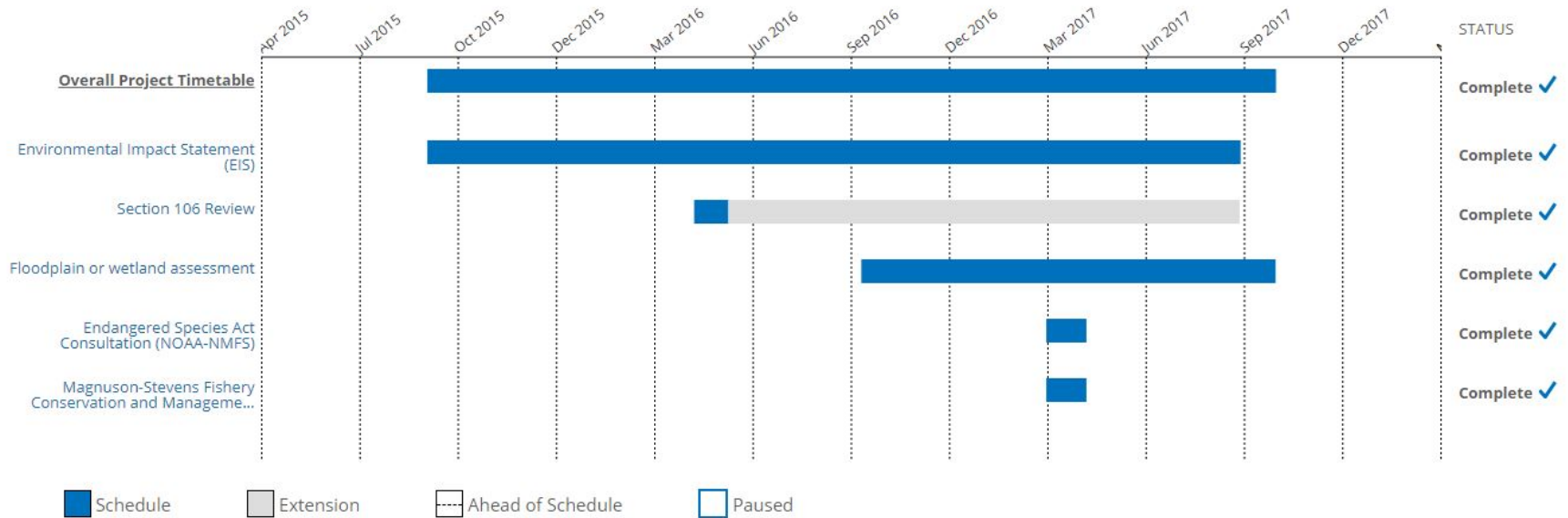


# Permitting Dashboard – Project Timetable

## Permitting Timetable

The permitting timetable below displays data as reported by agencies. Dates for Environmental Review and Permitting processes (Actions) that are in 'Paused' or 'Planned' status are subject to change and are not indicative of a project's final schedule.

- For information about extensions, select an Action from the timetable below and select 'View Action Details' at the bottom of the page.



## Action Information

For additional information, please select an Action from the Permitting Timetable above.

# Permitting Dashboard – Action Milestones

## Action Information

Action: **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

Responsible Agency: **States**

Bureau: **New Jersey**

Action Status: **Complete**

Milestone	Original Target Date	Current Target Date	Milestone Complete
Issuance of Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	09/04/2015	09/04/2015	✓
Scoping	11/20/2015	11/20/2015	✓
Official Notice of Availability of a Draft EIS published in the Federal Register (FR) beginning both the public comment period and concurrent CAA Section 309 Review	02/24/2017	02/24/2017	✓
Official Notice of Availability of a Final EIS published in the FR beginning both the public review period and concurrent CAA Section 309 Review	06/16/2017	06/16/2017	✓
Issuance of Record of Decision or combined Final EIS / Record of Decision	09/07/2017	09/07/2017	✓

[View Action Details](#)

# Permitting Dashboard – Action Details

## Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

**Project Name:** Hudson River Rebuild by Design Project : Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge

**Status:** Complete

**Point of Contact:** Dennis Reinknecht , Program Manager

**Responsible Agency:** New Jersey

**Public Participation Website:** Rebuild by Design - Hudson River

**Reason(s):**

Description:

The State of New Jersey as a HUD grantee is the Responsible Entity for the purpose of NEPA, and is the lead agency for completing the Environmental Impact Statement. The Record of Decision was approved September 7, 2017 finalizing the NEPA EIS process. The ROD was published for additional comment simultaneous to the Request for Release of Funds to Housing and Urban Development which invoked an additional 15-day comment period that concluded on September 25, 2017.

### Milestones:

<b>Issuance of Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</b>	Completed: 09/04/2015
<b>Scoping</b> Draft scoping document published in Federal Register on September 4, 2015 within NOA to Prepare an EIS. The public comment period on the draft scoping documents concluded October 9, 2015. The public scoping hearing was held on September 24, 2015. The final scoping document was published on the NJ Department of Environmental Protection website on November 20, 2015.	Completed: 11/20/2015
<b>Official Notice of Availability of a Draft EIS published in the Federal Register (FR) beginning both the public comment period and concurrent CAA Section 309 Review</b> Published in Federal Register and posted on New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection agency website on February 24, 2017. Public hearing held March 16, 2017.	Completed: 02/24/2017
<b>Official Notice of Availability of a Final EIS published in the FR beginning both the public review period and concurrent CAA Section 309 Review</b> FEIS Published in Federal Register and posted on official agency website on June 16, 2017.	Completed: 06/16/2017
<b>Issuance of Record of Decision or combined Final EIS / Record of Decision</b> Combined Notice of Record of Decision and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds published in local newspapers and official agency (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) website on September 8, 2017. The ROD was approved by the NJ Department of Community Affairs on September 7, 2017. The September 8th notice included an additional 15 day comment period simultaneous to the public's opportunity to comment on HUD's Request to Release Funds. That comment period concluded on September 25, 2017.	Completed: 09/07/2017



# EO 13807, ESTABLISHING DISCIPLINE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PERMITTING PROCESS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Council on Environmental Quality

Signed August 15, 2017, and published on August 24, 2017. 82 Fed. Reg. 40463.

Purpose:

. . . . Inefficiencies in current infrastructure project decisions, including management of environmental reviews and permit decisions or authorizations, have delayed infrastructure investments, increased project costs, and blocked the American people from enjoying improved infrastructure that would benefit our economy, society, and environment. More efficient and effective Federal infrastructure decisions can transform our economy, so the **Federal Government, as a whole, must change the way it processes environmental reviews and authorization decisions.**



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# E.O.13807

## Infrastructure Policy

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- (a) **safeguard our communities and maintain a healthy environment;**
- (b) ensure that Federal authorities make **informed decisions** concerning the environmental impacts of infrastructure projects;
- (c) develop infrastructure in an **environmentally sensitive** manner;
- (d) provide **transparency and accountability** to the public regarding environmental review and authorization decisions;
- (e) be good stewards of public funds, including those used to develop infrastructure projects, and **avoid duplicative and wasteful processes;**
- (f) **conduct environmental reviews and authorization processes in a coordinated, consistent, predictable, and timely manner** in order to give public and private investors the confidence necessary to make funding decisions for new infrastructure projects;
- (g) **speak with a coordinated voice** when conducting environmental reviews and making authorization decisions; and
- (h) **make timely decisions with the goal of** completing all Federal environmental reviews and authorization **decisions for major infrastructure projects within 2 years.**



# E.O.13807 Defines MIP

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“Major infrastructure project” means an infrastructure project for which multiple authorizations by Federal agencies will be required to proceed with construction, the lead Federal agency has determined that it will prepare an EIS under NEPA, and the project sponsor has identified the reasonable availability of funds sufficient to complete the project.



# Examples of Major Infrastructure Projects (MIPs)

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**MIP:** “means an infrastructure project for which *multiple authorizations by Federal agencies...*”

Project Scenario	MIP?
NEPA/EIS + lead agency only	No
NEPA/EIS + 106	No
NEPA/EIS + 106 + funding decision (triggers NEPA for lead agency)	No
NEPA/EIS + 106 + Other Agency determination	Yes
NEPA/EIS + 106 + Sec 7 (Sec 7 done by Lead Agency and FWS)	Yes
NEPA/EIS + FWS ROW + Sec 7 (Sec 7 done by FWS for FWS)	No
Others?	



# E.O.13807 Process for Major Infrastructure Projects

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Federal agencies shall:

- (i) use **"One Federal Decision;"**
- (ii) develop and follow a **permitting timetable**, reviewed and updated at least quarterly by the lead Federal agency in consultation with Federal cooperating and participating agencies; and
- (iii) **elevate issues that may cause delays or missed milestones to appropriate senior agency officials** of the lead Federal agency and the relevant Federal cooperating and participating agencies.

OMB/CEQ Memorandum established a “One Federal Decision Framework” implemented by a memorandum of understanding between 7 Departments, EPA, USACE, FERC, ACHP and the Permitting Council.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/MOU-One-Federal-Decision-m-18-13-Part-2-1.pdf>





# Key Elements of the One Federal Decision MOU

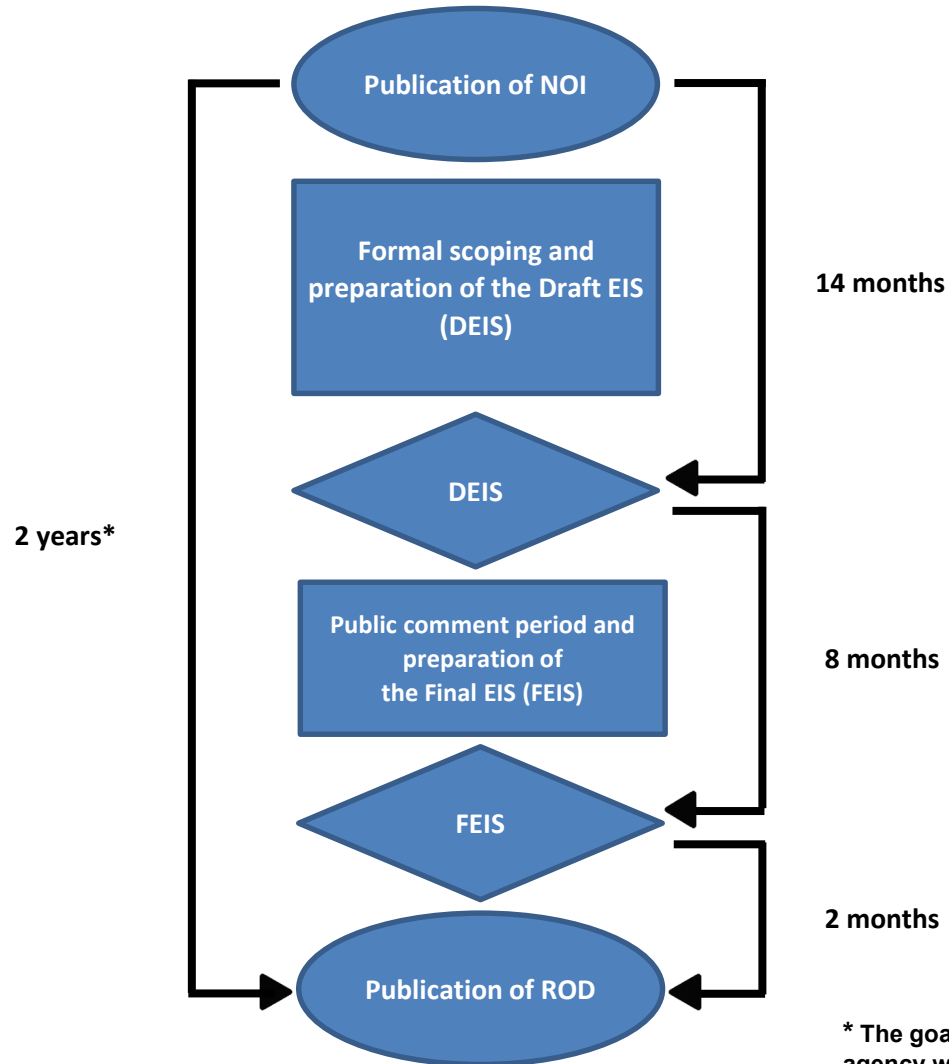
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- **Permitting Timetable:** Lead Federal agency to develop a “Permitting Timetable” which will include milestones for applicable environmental reviews and authorizations and be publicly available.
- **Concurrence Points:** Lead Federal agency to request written concurrence from cooperating agencies for 1) Purpose and Need statement; 2) Range of Alternatives; and 3) Preferred Alternative.
- **Single EIS / Single ROD:** Agencies will work with the lead Federal agency to develop a single EIS and ROD, with exceptions when impracticable or inconsistent with applicable law.
- **Issue Resolution:** Agencies will elevate interagency issues or disputes that may cause delays to higher-level officials (including senior leadership) for timely resolution.
- **Two-Year Goal:** Agencies will seek to reduce the time it takes for each agency to complete environmental reviews and authorization decisions to an average of two years.
- **Preserves Statutory Authorities:** MOU designed to coordinate agency processes while fully preserving each agency’s statutory authority, independence, and ability to comply fully with NEPA and related statutes.



# Sample Timeline for a Project Subject to EO 13807

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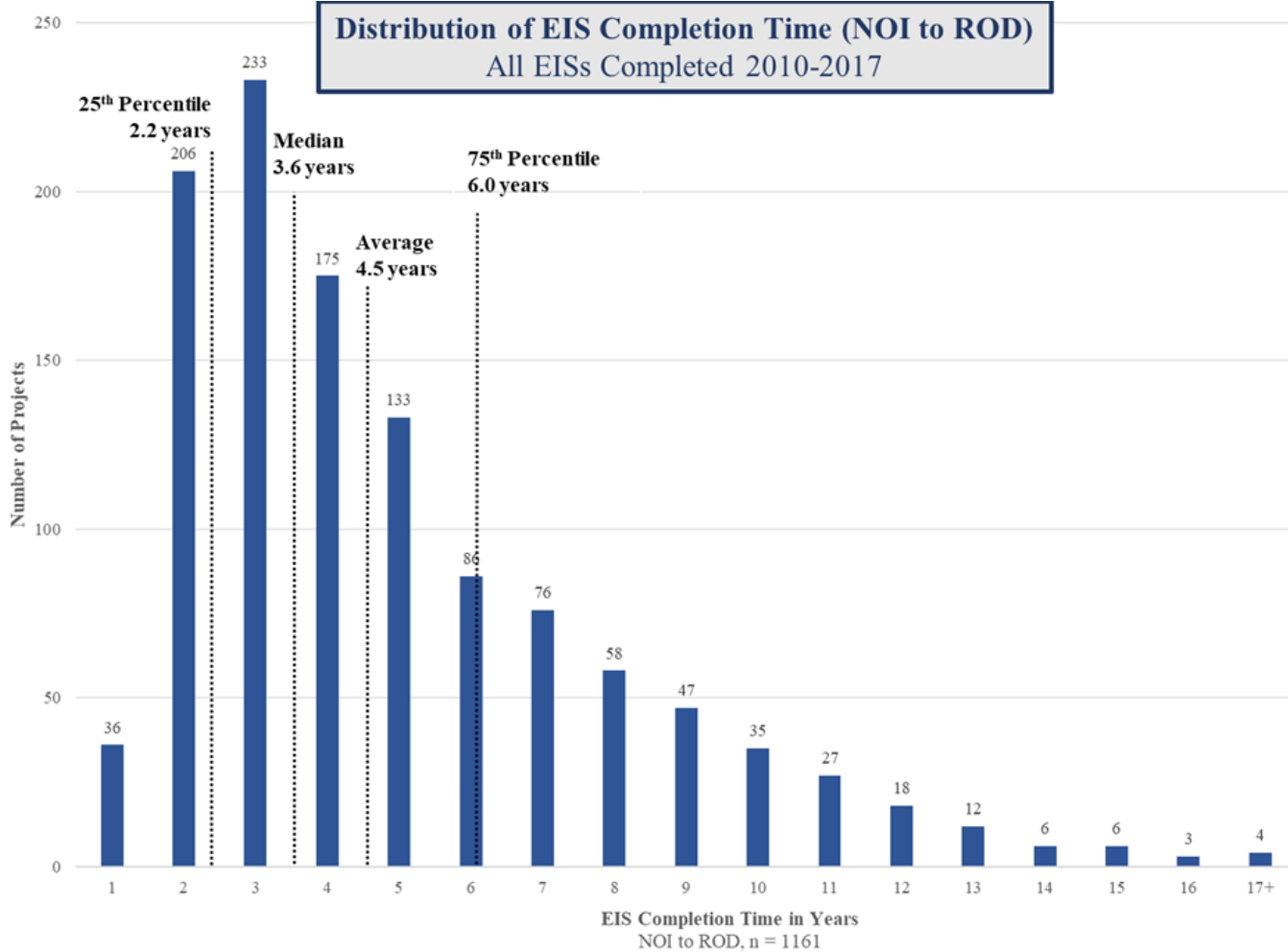


\* The goal of 2 years in EO 13807 is an agency-wide average, not all projects are expected to meet this average.



# EIS Timeline Data

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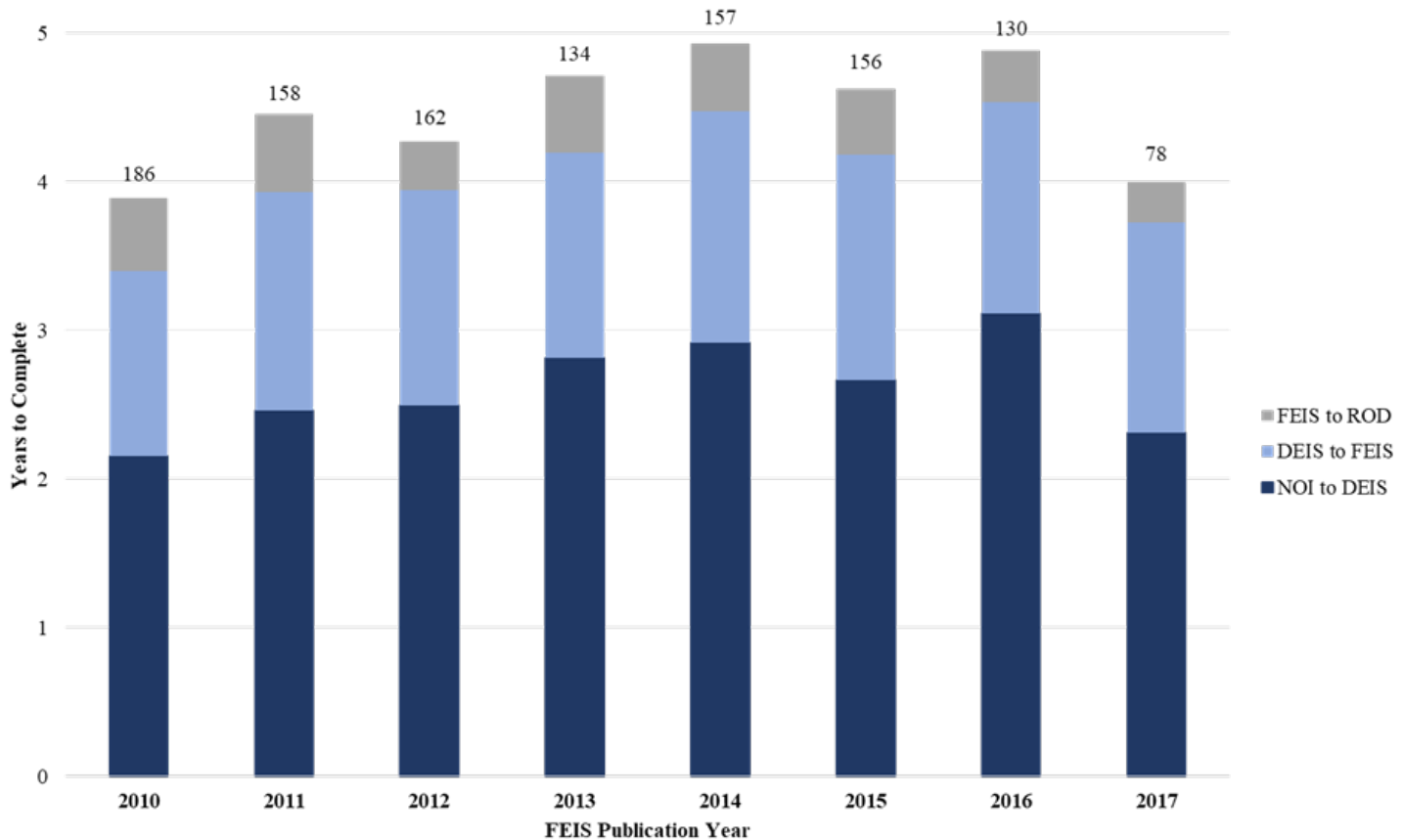




# EIS Timeline Data

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Average EIS Process Completion Time (NOI to ROD)  
All EISs completed 2010-2017



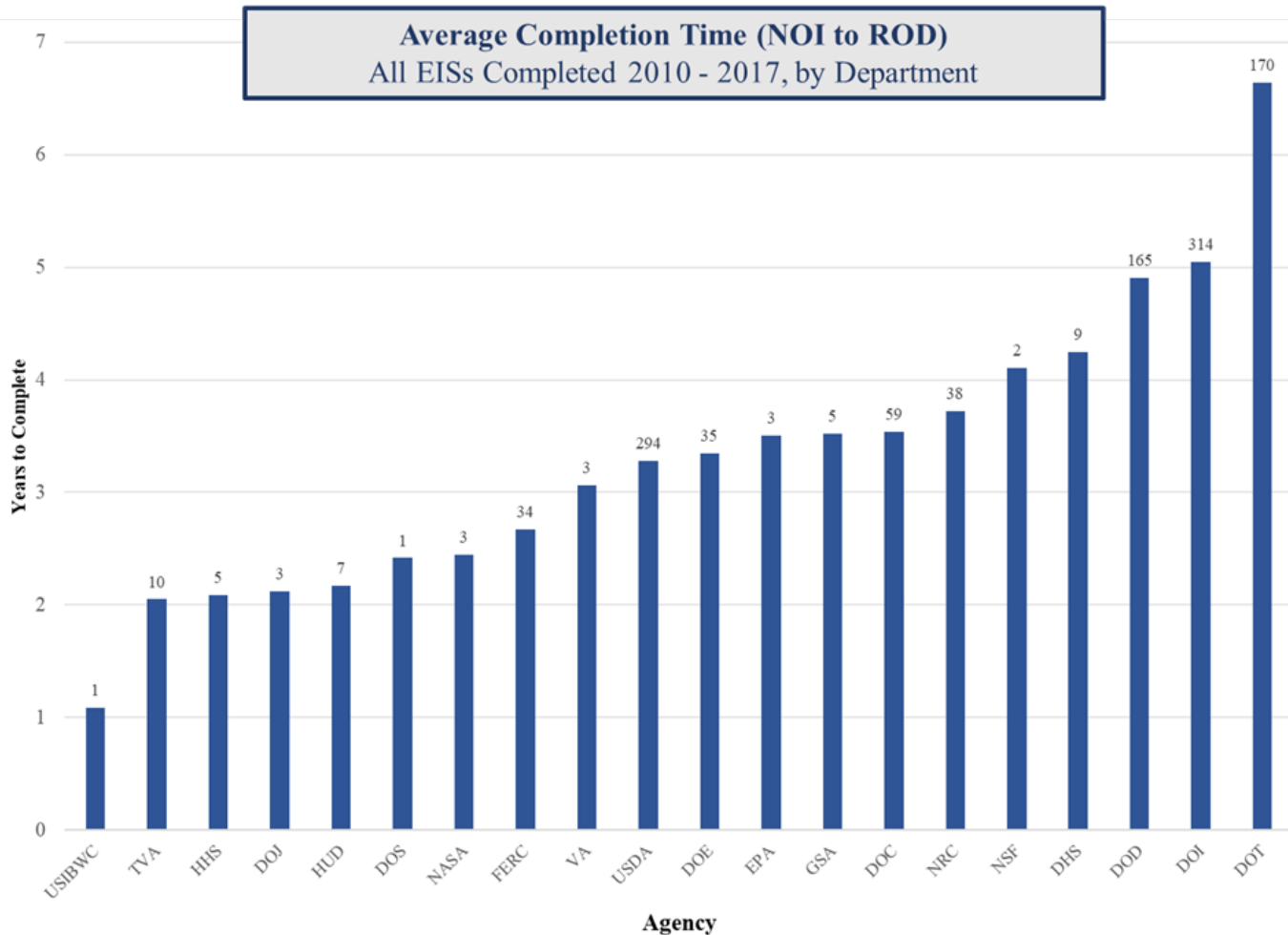
The number of Final EISs published each year, for which a ROD has been issued, is shown at the top of each bar.





# EIS Timeline Data

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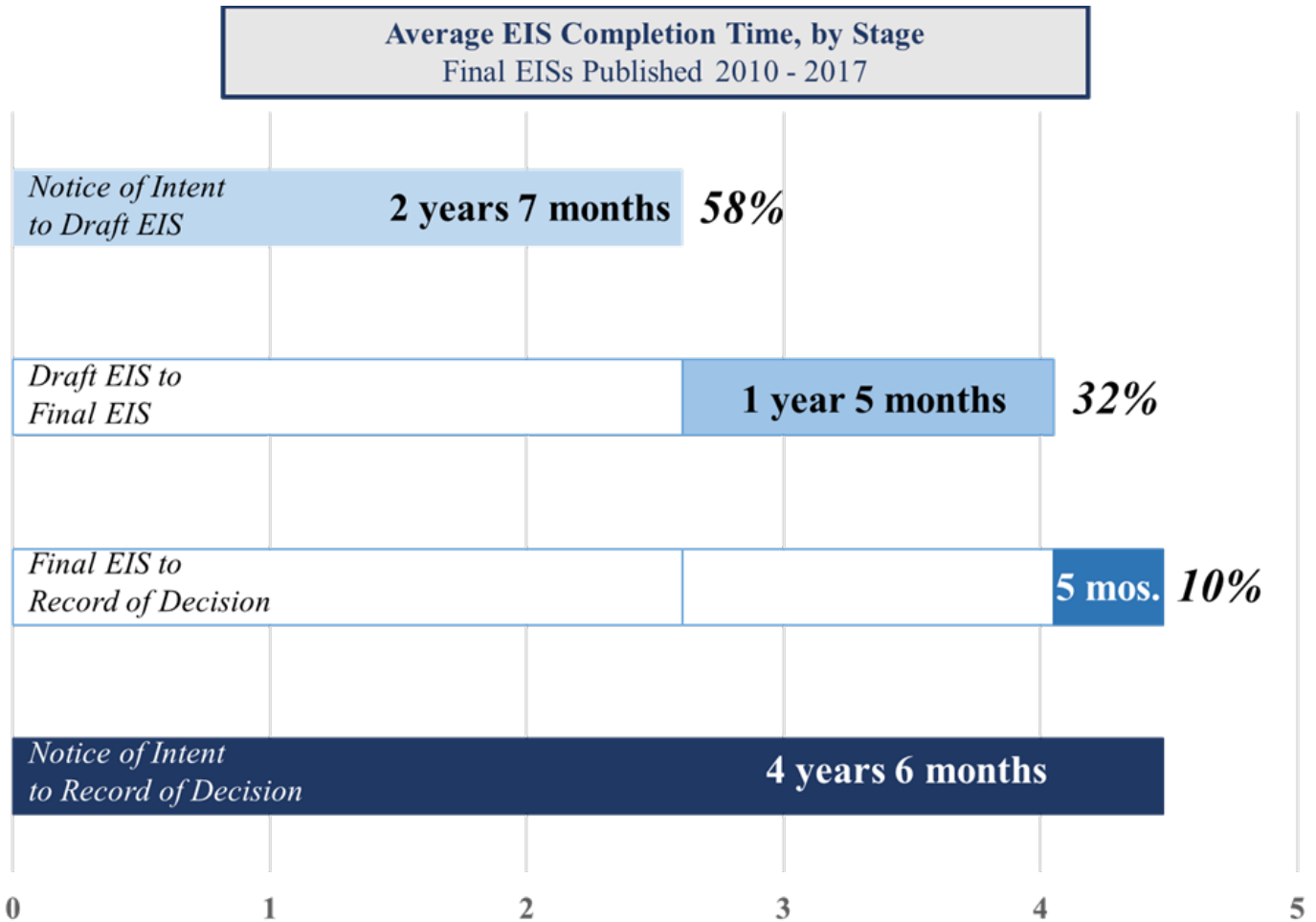
The number of Final EISs published, for which a ROD has been issued, is shown at the top of each bar.





# EIS Timeline Data

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\* Durations do not sum to total due to rounding



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# EIS Timeline Data

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Agency	EISs Completed	Average NOI to Draft	Average Draft to Final	Average Final to ROD	Average NOI to ROD
<b>Department of Agriculture (USDA)</b>	1	2.80	0.38	0.09	3.27
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	8	1.30	0.51	0.19	1.99
Farm Service Agency (FSA)	2	0.96	0.68	0.17	1.81
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	3	0.96	0.34	0.34	1.64
Rural Utilities Service (RUS)	4	1.77	0.82	0.60	3.18
United States Forest Service (USFS)	276	1.80	1.28	0.27	3.35

Agency	EISs Completed	Median NOI to Draft	Median Draft to Final	Median Final to ROD	Median NOI to ROD
<b>Department of Agriculture (USDA)</b>	1	2.80	0.38	0.09	3.27
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	8	1.48	0.49	0.11	2.20
Farm Service Agency (FSA)	2	0.96	0.68	0.17	1.81
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	3	0.78	0.29	0.10	1.81
Rural Utilities Service (RUS)	4	1.72	0.62	0.40	3.26
United States Forest Service (USFS)	276	1.40	0.92	0.10	2.92





# CEQ Report on length of EISs

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- CEQ found that across all Federal agencies, the average length for a draft EIS was 586 pages. Of the draft EISs reviewed:
  - The median document length was 403 pages;
  - One quarter were 288 pages or shorter; and
  - One quarter were 630 pages or longer.
- For final EISs, the average document length was 669 pages. Of the final EISs reviewed:
  - The median document length was 445 pages;
  - One quarter were 299 pages or shorter; and
  - One quarter were 729 pages or longer.
- On average, there was a 14 percent increase in document length from draft to final EIS.
- Of the final EISs reviewed, 7 percent were 150 pages or shorter, while 25 percent were 300 pages or shorter.
- CEQ found that draft EIS appendices average 591 pages while final EIS appendices averaged 1037 pages.





# Draft Guidance on the Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions under NEPA

- On March 28, 2017, President Trump issued [Executive Order \(EO\) 13783](#), [“Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth,”](#) which directed CEQ to rescind the [final guidance](#) issued August 5, 2016. CEQ [withdrew this guidance](#) on April 5, 2017 for further consideration.
- On June 21, 2019, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) submitted draft guidance titled “Draft [NEPA] Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas [GHG] Emissions,” to the Federal Register for public notice and comment.
- CEQ’s draft guidance seeks to assist Federal agencies in their consideration of GHG emissions when evaluating proposed major Federal actions in accordance with NEPA, and to facilitate more timely environmental reviews and permitting decisions for infrastructure projects requiring Federal agency approvals.



# Next Steps

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- CEQ issues Draft Guidance
  - Published in Federal Register on June 26
  - 30 day comment period extended
  - CEQ evaluation of comments received by August 26
- To comment, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments to Docket ID No. CEQ-2019-0002.



# Categorical Exclusion List

## U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Categorical Exclusions (CE)

### Forest Service (USFS)

#### [§220.6 Categorical exclusions.](#)

(a) *General.* A proposed action may be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an EIS or EA only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action and if:

- (1) The proposed action is within one of the categories established by the Secretary at 7 CFR part 1b.3; or
- (2) The proposed action is within a category listed in §220.6(d) and (e).

(b) *Resource conditions.* (1) Resource conditions that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to a proposed action warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS are:

- (i) Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species;
- (ii) Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds;
- (iii) Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas;
- (iv) Inventoried roadless area or potential wilderness area;
- (v) Research natural areas;
- (vi) American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites; and
- (vii) Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.

(2) The mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion (CE). It is the existence of a cause-effect relationship between a proposed action and the potential effect on these resource conditions, and if such a relationship exists, the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determines whether extraordinary circumstances exist.

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# Categorical Exclusion List

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Find what:  No Format Set Format...

Within:   Match case

Search:   Match entire cell contents

Look in:  Options <<

Find All Find Next Close

Book	Sheet	Name	Cell	Value
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	FSA		\$A\$70	(i) Conservation easement purchases with no construction planned;
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	FSA		\$A\$74	(v) Inventory property disposal or lease with protective easements or covenants;
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	FSA		\$A\$110	(iv) Inventory property disposal or lease without protective easements or covenants (this proposed action, in particular
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	USFS		\$A\$46	(ii) Purchasing fee, conservation easement, reserved interest deed, or other interests in lands.
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	USFS		\$A\$62	(ii) Issuance of a new special use authorization to reflect administrative changes such as, a change of ownership or con
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	RD		\$A\$80	(3) Replacement of utility lines where road reconstruction undertaken by non-Agency applicants requires the relocatio
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	FirstNet		\$A\$25	(D) Involve excavation outside the current site, defined as the area that is within the boundaries of the leased or owned
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	FirstNet		\$A\$40	[B.12.] Rebuilding of power lines or telecommunications cables where road or highway reconstruction requires the Ap
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	NOAA		\$A\$77	[H4.] "Acquisition of real property (including fee simple estates, leaseholds, and easements) that is not acquired throug
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	NOAA		\$A\$78	[H5.] "Granting easements or rights of entry to use NOAA controlled property for activities that, if conducted by NOAA
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	DLA		\$A\$55	29. Acquisition, installation, operation or privatization of utility (e.g. water, sewer, electrical) and communication system
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	DLA		\$A\$56	30. Grants of easements for the use of existing rights-of-way for roads, electrical power, telephone, and other transmis
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	DTRA		\$A\$26	13. Acquisition, installation, modification, routine repair and replacement, and operation of utility (e.g., water, sewer, an
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	MDA		\$A\$27	B-13. Acquisition, installation, modification, routine repair and replacement, and operation of utility (e.g., water, sewer,
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	USAF		\$A\$29	A2.3.12. Installing, operating, modifying, and routinely repairing and replacing utility and communications systems, da
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	USAF		\$A\$36	A2.3.19. Granting easements, leases, licenses, rights of entry, and permits to use Air Force controlled property for activi
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	DA		\$A\$51	(2) Acquisition, installation, and operation of utility and communication systems, mobile antennas, data processing cab
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	DA		\$A\$59	(1) Grants or acquisitions of leases, licenses, easements, and permits for use of real property or facilities in which there
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	DA		\$A\$60	(2) Disposal of excess easement areas to the underlying fee owner (REC required).
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	DON		\$A\$44	(29) Disposal of excess easement interests to the underlying fee owner;
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	DON		\$A\$48	(33) Grants of license, easement, or similar arrangements for the use of existing rights-of-way or incidental easements

63 cell(s) found





# Categorical Exclusion List

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Find what:  No Format Set Format...

Within:   Match case

Search:   Match entire cell contents

Look in:  Options <<

Find All Find Next Close

Book	Sheet	Name	Cell	Value
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	FMCSA		\$A\$136	cc. Special local regulations issued in conjunction with a motor vehicle rodeo or motor vehicle parade; provided that, if a per
CE List_2018-11-20.xlsx	FMCSA		\$A\$140	b. Approvals of motor vehicle rodeo and motor vehicle parade event permits for the following events:

<  >

2 cell(s) found





# Questions? Go to NEPA.gov

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The screenshot shows the NEPA.gov website. At the top left is the Council on Environmental Quality logo. The main header includes the text "NEPA.GOV NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT" and a search bar with the placeholder "Enter search request". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for HOME, LAWS & REGULATIONS, GUIDANCE, GET INVOLVED, NEPA PRACTICE, CEQ PUBLICATIONS, and CEQ REPORTS. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "INFRASTRUCTURE PERMITTING IMPROVEMENTS" and a "READ MORE" button. Below the banner is a "Welcome" section with a horizontal line. The text in the welcome section reads: "The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was enacted to: declare a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality. Sec. 2 [42 U.S. Code § 4321]. NEPA is our basic national charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals (section 101), and provides means (section 102) for carrying out the policy. Section 102 (2) contains "action-forcing" provisions to make sure that federal agencies act according to the letter and spirit of the Act. President Nixon signed NEPA into law on January 1, 1970. NEPA set forth a bold new vision for America. Acknowledging the decades of environmental neglect that had significantly degraded the nation's landscape and damaged the human environment, the law was established to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which

<https://ceq.doe.gov/index.html>



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