

## SUBCHAPTER K—SPECIAL REGULATIONS

### PART 775—ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401; 42 U.S.C.4331 *et seq.*; 40 CFR 1500.4(p).

SOURCE: 44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 775.1 Purpose.

These procedures implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (43 FR 55978) issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). These procedures are adopted pursuant to the Postal Reorganization Act rather than the NEPA insofar as the NEPA and its Regulations do not apply to the Postal Service under 39 U.S.C. 410(a).

#### § 775.2 Policy.

It is the policy of the Postal Service to:

- (a) Interpret and administer applicable policies, regulations, and public laws of the United States in accordance with the policies set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, and the NEPA Regulations.
- (b) Make the NEPA process useful to Postal Service decision makers and the public.
- (c) Emphasize environmental issues and alternatives in the consideration of proposed actions.
- (d) Encourage and facilitate public involvement in decisions which affect the quality of the human environment.
- (e) Use the NEPA process to identify and assess reasonable alternatives to proposed actions in order to avoid or minimize adverse effects on the environment.

(f) Use all practicable means to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of the human environment.

- (g) Reduce paperwork.
- (h) Reduce delay.

#### § 775.3 Responsibilities.

(a) The Assistant Postmaster General, Real Estate and Buildings Department, is responsible for overall review of NEPA compliance. Requests for information or status reports on environmental impact statements and other elements of the NEPA process should be addressed to:

Assistant Postmaster General, Real Estate & Buildings Department, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, West, SW., Washington, DC 20260.

(b) Heads of affected Headquarters Departments and Regional Postmasters General must designate "Environmental Coordinators" to be specifically responsible for compliance with these procedures.

#### § 775.4 Typical classes of action.

(a) *Normally assessed kinds of action.* These procedures apply to the following typical classes of actions:

- (1) Those which normally require environmental impact statements: None.
- (2) Those which do not normally require environmental impact statements, but do normally require environmental assessment except as excluded by paragraph (b) of this section:
  - (i) Postal facility actions:
    - (A) New construction, including lease-construction.
    - (B) The purchase or lease of an existing building if a new or substantially enlarged occupancy is involved.
    - (C) The expansion or improvement of an existing facility.
  - (ii) Real property disposals.
  - (iii) Postal facility function changes.
  - (iv) Initiation of legislative proposals.

(b) *Categorical exclusions.* The classes of action in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(15) of this section normally do not require either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact

statement. However, the responsible official must be alert to unusual conditions that would require an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement notwithstanding the applicability of a categorical exclusion to particular action.

(1) New construction, Postal Service owned, including site acquisition by any method, or Postal Service leased, of less than 30,000 net interior square feet.

(2) Acquisition by purchase, lease, or exchange, of existing buildings containing less than 50,000 net interior square feet with occupancy of greater than 90 days where planned postal uses do not differ significantly from past uses of the site.

(3) Lease of existing buildings of any size for occupancy of 90 days or less.

(4) Expansion or improvement of an existing facility where the expansion does not exceed 30,000 net interior square feet.

(5) Acquisition of unimproved real property not connected to specific facility plans or when necessary to protect the interests of the Postal Service in advance of final project approval. This categorical exclusion applies only to the acquisition. Any subsequent use of the property for a facility project must be considered under this part without regard to ownership of the real property.

(6) Routine actions normally conducted to protect and maintain properties and which do not alter the configuration of the building.

(7) Repair to, or replacement-in-kind of, building equipment or components (e.g., electrical distribution, HVAC systems, doors, windows, roofs, etc.).

(8) Obtaining, granting, disposing, or changing of easements, licenses and permits, rights-of-way and similar interests.

(9) Disposal through sale or outlease of unimproved real property of any size or improved real estate under 30,000 net interior square feet.

(10) Purchase of Postal Service occupied leased property where planned postal uses do not differ significantly from past uses of the site.

(11) Extension, renewal, renegotiation, or termination of existing lease agreements.

(12) Joint development and/or joint-use projects involving construction under 30,000 net interior square feet.

(13) Procurement or disposal of motor vehicles not involving a substantial increase in the concentration of vehicles in a geographic impact area. Procurement or disposal of mail handling equipment.

(14) Postal rate or mail classification actions.

(15) Postal facility function changes not involving construction, the relocation of a substantial number of employees, or a substantial increase in the number of motor vehicles at a facility.

[44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 5716, Feb. 8, 1982; 49 FR 23181, June 5, 1984; 55 FR 10454, Mar. 21, 1990]

#### **§ 775.5 Environmental evaluation guidelines.**

(a) *Approach.* When dealing with proposals which may have an impact on the human environment, environmental coordinators, planners, decision makers, and other officials responsible for actions, will, as appropriate:

(1) Use a systematic approach that integrates natural and social sciences and environmental design in planning and making decisions.

(2) Identify environmental effects and values in detail, and appraise them in conjunction with economic and technical analyses.

(3) Consider environmental documents at all decision points at which other planning documents are considered. (Plans and decisions are to reflect environmental values. Proposed actions should be assessed as soon as their effects can be meaningfully evaluated, to provide the bases for early decision on whether detailed environmental impact statements must be prepared.)

(4) Study, develop, describe, and evaluate at all decision points, reasonable alternatives to recommended actions which may have a significant effect on the environment.

(b) *Proposal requirements.* When an environmental impact statement has been prepared, it must accompany the

proposal through and be used in the decision-making process. Any other proposal must refer to applicable environmental documents (e.g., determination of categorical exclusion; finding of no significant impact; notice of intent to prepare an impact statement), and relevant comments and responses.

(c) *Lead agency arrangements.* If the Postal Service and another Federal agency become involved in a lead agency arrangement for the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the Service will cooperate fully.

**§ 775.6 Environmental evaluation process.**

(a) *All actions*—(1) *Assessment of actions.* An environmental assessment must be made of each proposed action, except that an assessment need not be made if a written determination is made that:

(i) The action is one of a class listed in § 775.4(b), Categorical Exclusions, and

(ii) The action is not affected by extraordinary circumstances which may cause it to have a significant environmental effect. This part of the determination may be supported by completion of an environmental checklist (referred to as a level I environmental review in the Handbook RE-6) for certain types of categorical exclusions.

(2) *Findings of no significant impact.* If an environmental assessment indicates that there is no significant impact of a proposed action on the environment, an environmental impact statement is not required. A “finding of no significant impact” is prepared and published in accordance with § 775.10. When the proposed action is approved, it may be accomplished without further environmental consideration. A “finding of no significant impact” document briefly presents the reasons why an action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and states that an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. It must refer to the environmental assessment and any other environmentally pertinent documents related to it. The assessment may be included in the finding if it is short, in which case the discussion in the assessment need not be repeated in the finding.

(3) *Impact statement preparation decision and notices.* If an environmental assessment indicates that a proposed major action would have a significant impact on the environment, a notice of intent to prepare an impact statement is published (see § 775.10) and an environmental impact statement is prepared.

(4) *Role of impact statement in decision making.* An environmental impact statement is used, with other analyses and materials, to decide which alternative should be pursued, or whether a proposed action should be abandoned or other courses of action pursued. See § 775.9 for restrictions on the timing of this decision.

(5) *Record of decision.* For actions requiring environmental impact statements, a concise public record of decision is prepared when a decision, or a proposal for legislation, is made. The record, which may be integrated into any other record, or notice, including that required by Postal Service regulations and procedures governing intergovernmental review of Postal Service facility project actions, must:

(i) State what the decision was.

(ii) Identify all alternatives considered in reaching a decision, specifying alternatives considered to be environmentally preferable; identify and discuss all significant factors, including any essential considerations of national policy, which were weighed in making the decision and state how those considerations entered into the decision.

(iii) State whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been or will be adopted, and if not, why not.

(6) *Actions prohibited prior to issuance of record of decision.* Until a record of decision is issued, no action may be taken on a proposal on which an environmental impact statement is made if the action would:

(i) Have an adverse environmental impact, or

(ii) Limit the choice of reasonable alternatives.

(7) *Mitigation measures.* Practicable mitigation measures identified in an

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environmental assessment must be implemented. Mitigation measures described in an environmental impact statement and accepted in a decision must be implemented. Upon request, the Postal Service informs federal, state, and local agencies and the public of the progress in carrying out adopted mitigation measures.

(b) *Additional requirements for facility actions.* (1) The environmental assessment of any action which involves the choice of contending sites for a facility must be started early in the planning of the action. An environmental assessment report, however, is not required until the contending project sites have been determined. The information contained in the environmental assessment report must be used, together with other site planning information, in the selection of the final site.

(2) When an environmental assessment indicates that an environmental impact statement may be needed for a proposed facility action, a decision analysis report reflecting the results of the assessment is presented to the Capital Investment Committee, and to the Board of Governors if the Board considers the proposal (see 39 CFR 3.4(f)), so that they may decide if an impact statement is to be prepared.

(3) If the Committee or the Board is requested to authorize the preparation of an environmental impact statement, and an analysis indicates that it would be more cost-effective to proceed immediately with continued control of sites, (including advance acquisition, if necessary, and where authorized by postal procedures), environmental impact statement preparation, and project designs, the request will include authorization of funds to permit:

(i) The preparation of an impact statement encompassing all reasonable site alternatives,

(ii) The continued control of specified competing sites (including advance acquisition, if necessary, and where authorized by postal procedures), chosen to preserve environmental or other options, and

(iii) The development of limited designs of facilities for each competing site.

(4) A completed environmental impact statement will be presented to the

Capital Investment Committee, and to the Board of Governors if the Board considers the proposal, for use in deciding whether a proposed project should proceed, be restudied, or be abandoned. If the decision is to proceed with a proposed project, the Committee, or the Board if it considers the proposal, decides which alternative site is to be used for project development, and authorizes the project.

[44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 29378, June 24, 1983; 50 FR 32411, Aug. 12, 1985; 50 FR 33036, Aug. 16, 1985; 55 FR 10454, Mar. 21, 1990]

### § 775.7 Environmental assessments.

(a) An environmental assessment must contain:

(1) A summary of major considerations and conclusions,

(2) A description of the proposed action,

(3) For each reasonable alternative, a description of the affected environment, the environmental consequences, the mitigation measures, if any, and a comparison to all alternatives considered.

(b) Those preparing an environmental assessment must solicit information and views from Federal, State, and local agencies and, where there is a substantial likelihood of significant effects on the environment, the public. All responsible views and information must be considered.

### § 775.8 Environmental impact statements.

(a) *Determining scope.* Before an environmental impact statement is prepared, the following procedures must be followed to determine what issues are to be addressed and in what depth:

(1) Affected Federal, State, and local agencies and other interested persons are invited to participate by furnishing written views and information, or at a hearing if appropriate. Notice is given in accordance with § 775.10.

(2) The significance of issues to be analyzed in depth in the environmental impact statement is determined through consideration of:

(i) Actions which are closely related, or similar, or have cumulative significant impacts.

(ii) Alternatives, which must include the "no action" alternative, other reasonable courses of action, and mitigation measures.

(iii) Impacts, which may be direct, indirect, or cumulative.

(3) Issues which are not significant are identified and eliminated.

(4) The determinations made must be revised if substantial changes are made later in the proposed action, or if significant new circumstances or information arise which bear on the proposal or its impacts.

(b) *Preparation.* (1) Except for proposals for legislation, environmental impact statements are prepared in two stages:

(i) Draft environmental impact statement, prepared in accordance with the scope decided upon under paragraph (a) of this section.

(ii) Final environmental impact statement, responding to comments on the draft statement and discussing and responding to any responsible opposing view which was not adequately discussed in the draft statement.

(2) Environmental impact statements must:

(i) Be analytic rather than encyclopedic.

(ii) Contain discussions of impacts in proportion to their significance. Insignificant impacts eliminated during the process under § 775.8(a) to determine the scope of issues must be discussed only to the extent necessary to state why they will not be significant.

(iii) Be concise, and not longer than is necessary to comply with NEPA. They must not contain repeated statements of the same basic points.

(iv) Contain discussions of alternatives considered and of how alternatives chosen will meet the requirements of NEPA and other environmental laws and policies.

(v) Encompass the range of alternatives to be considered by the decision makers.

(vi) Serve to assess the environmental impact of proposed actions, rather than to justify decisions already made.

(3) The text of final environmental impact statements normally should be less than 150 pages. Statements on pro-

posals of unusual scope or complexity normally should be less than 300 pages.

(4) Staged or "tiered" environmental impact statements must not contain repetitive discussions of the same issues. Each document must state where each earlier document is available.

(5) Material may be incorporated into an environmental impact statement by reference only when the material is reasonably available for inspection by potentially interested persons within the time allowed for comment.

(6) If information relevant to reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts cannot be obtained because the overall cost of obtaining it is exorbitant or the means to obtain it are not known, the fact that such information is incomplete or unavailable must be stated clearly. In addition, the relevance of the incomplete or unavailable information to the evaluation of the impacts must be stated, and a summary of existing credible scientific evidence relevant to evaluation of the impacts must be included, as well as an evaluation of such impacts on the basis of theoretical approaches or generally accepted research methods. For purposes of this subsection, "reasonably foreseeable" includes impacts which have catastrophic consequences, even if their probability of occurrence is low, provided that the analysis of the impacts is supported by credible scientific evidence, is not based on pure conjecture, and is within the rule of reason.

(7) If a cost-benefit analysis relevant to the choice among environmentally different alternatives was prepared for the proposed action, it must be incorporated by reference or appended to the statement to aid in evaluating the environmental consequences. The relationship between the cost-benefit analysis and any analysis of unquantified environmental impacts, values, and amenities must be discussed.

(8) Methods used must be identified, and footnote references must be made to scientific and other sources relied on for conclusions. Analytical techniques may be incorporated in appendices.

(9) Permits, licenses, and other authorizations needed to implement a proposal must be listed in the draft environmental impact statement and the prospects for obtaining them must be

assessed. Where there is uncertainty as to the need for an authorization it must be indicated.

(10) An environmental impact statement must contain a discussion of any inconsistency between the proposed action and any State or local law, ordinance, or approved plan; and must contain a description of the manner and extent to which the proposed action will be reconciled with the law, ordinance, or approved plan.

(11) Where State laws or local ordinances impose environmental impact statement requirements which are not in conflict with those in NEPA, an environmental impact statement made by the Postal Service should satisfy pertinent State and local requirements to the extent practicable.

(c) *Format.* The standard format for environmental statements is:

(1) *Cover Sheet.* The cover sheet, not to exceed one page, must include:

(i) A list of the responsible agencies including the lead agency and any cooperating agencies.

(ii) The title of the proposed action that is the subject of the statement (and if appropriate, the titles of related cooperating agency actions), together with any city, state, and county where the action is to take place.

(iii) The name, address, and telephone number of a person at the agency who can supply further information.

(iv) A designation of the document as a draft or final statement or a draft or final supplement.

(v) A one-paragraph abstract of the statement.

(vi) The date by which comments must be received.

(2) *Summary.* The summary must stress the major conclusions, areas of controversy (including issues raised by agencies and the public), and the issues to be resolved (including the choice among alternatives).

(3) *Table of Contents.*

(4) *Purpose of and Need for Action.*

(5) *Alternatives and Mitigation.* This portion of the environmental impact statement is vitally important. Based on the analysis in the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences section (see §775.8(c) (6)), the environmental impacts and the alternatives are presented in comparative

form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choosing alternatives. Those preparing the statement must:

(i) Explore and evaluate all reasonable alternatives, including the "no action" alternative, and briefly discuss the reasons for eliminating any alternatives.

(ii) Devote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail, including the proposed action, so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits.

(iii) Identify the preferred alternative or alternatives in the draft and final statements.

(iv) Describe appropriate mitigation measures not considered to be an integral part of the proposed action or alternatives. See §775.6(a)(7).

(6) *Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.* For each reasonable alternative, each affected element of the environment must be described, followed immediately by an analysis of the impacts (environmental consequences). The analysis must include, among others, the following:

(i) Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the action be implemented.

(ii) The relationship between short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity,

(iii) Any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources should the action be implemented, and

(iv) Energy requirements and conservation; and natural, or depletable, resource requirements and conservation.

(7) *List of Mitigation Measures.*

(8) *List of Preparers.* List the names, together with the qualifications (expertise, professional disciplines), of persons who were primarily responsible for preparing the environmental impact statement or significant background papers.

(9) *List of Agencies, Organizations and Persons to Whom Copies of the Statement Are Sent.*

(10) *Index.*

(11) *Appendices.* Include comments on draft statement in final statement.

(d) *Distribution.* (1) Any completed draft environmental impact statement

which is made the subject of a public hearing, must be made available to the public as provided in § 775.10 of this part at least 15 days in advance of the hearing.

(2) Draft and final environmental impact statements must be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency. Five copies are filed with EPA's headquarters addressed to the Office of Federal Activities (A-104), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460; five copies are also filed with the responsible EPA region. Statements may not be filed with the EPA earlier than they are transmitted to commenting agencies and made available to the public.

(3) Copies of draft and final environmental impact statements must be furnished to:

(i) Any Federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved.

(ii) Any appropriate Federal, state, or local agency authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards.

(iii) The appropriate review officials identified in the Postal Service regulations and procedures governing intergovernmental review of Postal Service facility project actions, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and, when National Register or eligible properties may be affected, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

(iv) Any person, organization or agency requesting them.

(4) Copies of final environmental impact statements must be furnished to any person who, or organization or agency which, submitted substantive comments on the draft.

(e) *Responses to comments.* (1) A final statement responds to comments on a draft statement in one or more of the following ways:

(i) Modification of alternatives, including the proposed action.

(ii) Development and evaluation of alternatives not previously given serious consideration.

(iii) Supplementation, improvement, or modification of analyses.

(iv) Correction of facts.

(v) Explanation of why a comment does not warrant a direct response, citing supporting sources, authorities, or

reasons. Relevant circumstances which may trigger reappraisal or further response must be indicated.

(2) Substantive comments received on a draft statement must be attached to the final statement.

(3) If all of the changes are minor and are confined to responses described in paragraphs (e)(1) (iv) and (v) of this section, errata sheets may be written, and only the comments and errata sheets need be recirculated. In such a case, the draft statement with the comments, errata sheets, and a new cover, must be filed as the final statement.

(f) *Supplements.* (1) A supplement to a draft or final environmental impact statement must be issued if:

(i) Substantial changes are made in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns; or

(ii) Significant new circumstances or information bearing on environmental impacts of the proposed action arise or are discovered.

(2) The decision on a proposed action involving an environmental impact statement, must be delayed until any necessary supplement has been circulated and has gone through the commenting period. A supplement is prepared, circulated, and filed in the same manner (except for determining scope) as draft and final statements, unless alternative procedures are approved by CEQ.

(g) *Contracting.* A contractor employed to prepare an environmental impact statement must certify that it has no financial or other interest in the outcome of the project.

(h) *Proposals for Legislation.* Legislative environmental impact statements must be prepared and transmitted as follows:

(1) A legislative environmental impact statement is considered part of the formal transmittal of a legislative proposal to the Congress. It may be transmitted to the Congress up to 30 days after the proposal. The statement must be available in time for Congressional hearings and deliberations.

(2) Preparation and processing of a legislative statement must conform to the requirements for impact statements, except as follows:

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(i) It is not necessary to determine the scope of issues.

(ii) A draft is considered to be a final statement. Both draft and final statements are needed only when:

(A) A Congressional committee with jurisdiction over the proposal has a rule requiring both.

(B) Both are specifically required by statute for proposals of the type being submitted.

(3) Comments received on a legislative statement, and the Postal Service's responses, must be forwarded to the Congress.

[44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 29378, June 24, 1983; 55 FR 10455; Mar. 21, 1990]

### **§ 775.9 Time frames for environmental impact statement actions.**

(a) Each week the EPA publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of the draft and final environmental impact statements received in that office during the preceding week. The minimum time periods for decision on an action, specified in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section, are calculated from the date of publication of an EPA notice of receipt of the relevant impact statement.

(b) A decision on a proposed action may not be made or recorded until the later of the following dates: 90 days after publication of the notice described in paragraph (a) of this section for a draft statement or 30 days after publication of the notice for a final statement.

(c) If a final statement is filed with the EPA within 90 days after a draft statement is filed, the 30 day period and the 90 day period may run concurrently.

(d) A minimum of 45 days must be allowed for comments on draft statements.

### **§ 775.10 Public notice and information.**

(a) Public notice is given of NEPA-related hearings, intent to undertake environmental assessments and environmental impact statements, and the availability of environmental documents (that is, environmental assessments, findings of no significant impact, and environmental impact statements), as follows:

(1) Notices must be mailed to those who have requested them.

(2) Notices concerning a proposal of national concern must be mailed to national organizations reasonably expected to be interested. Any such notice must be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. (See paragraph (a)(4) of this section.

(3) Notices of any proposed action having effects primarily of local concern are given as follows:

(i) Any such notice, including a copy of any pertinent environmental document, must be mailed to the appropriate review officials identified in the Postal Service regulations and procedures governing intergovernmental review of Postal Service facility project actions, to the State Historic Preservation Officer, and to local public officials.

(ii) Any such notice must be published in one or more local newspapers.

(iii) Any such notice must be posted on and near any proposed and alternate sites for an action.

(iv) Any such notice may be mailed to potentially interested community organizations, including small business associations.

(v) Any such notice may be mailed to owners and occupants of nearby or affected property.

(4) A copy of every notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement must be furnished to the Assistant General Counsel, Legislative Division, Law Department, who will have it published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) All notices must give the name, address, and telephone number of a postal official who may be contacted for information. Environmental documents are made available to the public on request. Inspection, copying, and the furnishing of copies will be in accordance with 39 CFR Part 265, "Release of Information."

[44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 19992, May 10, 1982; 48 FR 29378, June 24, 1983]

### **§ 775.11 Hearings.**

(a) Public hearings must be held whenever there is:

(1) Substantial environmental controversy concerning a proposed action

and a request for a hearing by any responsible individual or organization;

(2) A request for a hearing by an agency with jurisdiction over or special expertise concerning the proposed action; or

(3) A reasonable expectation that a hearing will produce significant information not likely to be obtained without a hearing.

(b) The distribution and notice requirements of §§ 775.8(d)(1) and 775.10 must be complied with whenever a hearing is to be held.

**PART 776—FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF WETLANDS PROCEDURES**

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 46 FR 22366, Apr. 17, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 776.1 Purpose and policy.**

(a) Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, was issued on May 24, 1977, under authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.) (NEPA), the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001), and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-234, 87 Stat. 9451). Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, was issued on May 24, 1977, under authority of NEPA. The purpose of these Orders was to avoid adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and/or modification of floodplains; or the modification and destruction of wetlands.

(b) These procedures implement Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and are adopted under the Postal Reorganization Act rather than the statutes listed in paragraph (a) of this section, to the extent these statutes do not apply to the Postal Service under 39 U.S.C. 410(a).

(c) These procedures provide guidance:

(1) To avoid direct or indirect, long or short term adverse impact on floodplains and wetlands;

(2) To reduce the risk of flood loss;

(3) To minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare;

(4) To restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains;

(5) To minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands;

(6) To preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands; and

(7) To avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development.

(d) These procedures are general in nature. Postal Service Handbook RE-6, *Environmental Procedures*, provides detailed procedures for implementing these executive orders.

**§ 776.2 Responsibility.**

The Assistant Postmaster General, Facilities Department, is responsible for overall compliance with these procedures.

[46 FR 22366, Apr. 17, 1981, as amended at 51 FR 40170, Nov. 5, 1986]

**§ 776.3 Scope.**

These procedures are applicable to every proposed postal facility project which involves:

(a) New construction, for ownership or lease;

(b) Existing buildings, owned or leased, except the acquisition of existing leased facilities when no substantial external change in the configuration of the facility will occur;

(c) Modernization or improvement of an existing facility where the external configuration of the building or the use of the facility is changed substantially and significantly;

(d) Disposal or lease of owned, excess property;

(e) Proposals for granting a property easement or right-of-way to non-federal public or private parties.

**§ 776.4 Definitions.**

(a) A *floodplain*, for the purposes of these procedures, is the area in which a