

§ 10.9

44 CFR Ch. I (10–1–10 Edition)

an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment.

(g) *Actions that normally require an environmental assessment.* When a proposal is not one that normally requires an environmental impact statement and does not qualify as a categorical exclusion, the Regional Administrator shall prepare an environmental assessment.

[45 FR 41142, June 18, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 2049, Jan. 8, 1981; 46 FR 54346, Nov. 3, 1981; 47 FR 13149, Mar. 29, 1982; 52 FR 5285, Feb. 20, 1987; 59 FR 954, Jan. 7, 1994; 61 FR 4230, Feb. 5, 1996; 61 FR 10688, Mar. 15, 1996; 66 FR 57347, Nov. 14, 2001]

§ 10.9 Preparation of environmental assessments.

(a) *When to prepare.* The Regional Administrator shall begin preparation of an environmental assessment as early as possible after the determination that an assessment is required. The Regional Administrator may prepare an environmental assessment at any time to assist planning and decision-making.

(b) *Content and format.* The environmental assessment is a concise public document to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement, aiding in compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary, and facilitating preparation of a statement when one is necessary. Preparation of an environmental assessment generally will not require extensive research or lengthy documentation. The environmental assessment shall contain brief discussion of the following:

(1) Purpose and need for the proposed action.

(2) Description of the proposed action.

(3) Alternatives considered.

(4) Environmental impact of the proposed action and alternatives.

(5) Listing of agencies and persons consulted.

(6) Conclusion of whether to prepare an environmental impact statement.

(c) *Public participation.* The Regional Administrator shall involve environmental agencies, applicants, and the public, to the extent practicable, in preparing environmental assessments. In determining “to the extent practicable,” the Regional Administrator shall consider:

(1) Magnitude of the proposal;

(2) Likelihood of public interest;

(3) Need to act quickly;

(4) Likelihood of meaningful public comment;

(5) National security classification issues;

(6) Need for permits; and

(7) Statutory authority of environmental agency regarding the proposal.

(d) *When to prepare an EIS.* The Regional Administrator shall prepare an environmental impact statement for all major Agency actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The test of what is a “significant” enough impact to require an EIS is found in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.27.

(e) *Finding of No Significant Impact.* If the Regional Administrator determines on the basis of the environmental assessment not to prepare an environmental impact statement, the Regional Administrator shall prepare a finding of no significant impact in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.4(e) of the CEQ regulations. The assessment and the finding shall be submitted to the Environmental Officer and the Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) for approval. If Environmental Officer and OGC approval is obtained, the Regional Administrator shall then make the finding of no significant impact available to the public as specified in §1506.6 of the CEQ regulations. A finding of no significant impact is not required when the decision not to prepare an environmental impact statement is based on a categorical exclusion.

(f) *Environmental Officer or OCC Disallowance.* If the Environmental Officer or OCC disagrees with the finding of no significant impact, the Regional Administrator shall prepare an environmental impact statement. Prior to preparation of an EIS, the Regional Administrator shall forward a notice of intent to prepare the EIS to the Environmental Officer who shall publish such notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(g) *EIS determination of Regional Administrator.* The Regional Director may decide on his/her own to prepare an environmental impact statement. In such case, the Regional Administrator shall forward a notice of intent to prepare the EIS to the Environmental Officer

who shall publish such notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The notice of intent shall be published before initiation of the scoping process.

[45 FR 41142, June 18, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 13149, Mar. 29, 1982]

§ 10.10 Preparation of environmental impact statements.

(a) *Scoping.* After determination that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and publication of the notice of intent, the Regional Administrator will initiate the scoping process in accordance with §1501.7 of the CEQ regulations.

(b) *Preparation.* Based on the scoping process, the Regional Administrator will begin preparation of the environmental impact statement. Detailed procedures for preparation of the environmental impact statement are provided in part 1502 of the CEQ regulations.

(c) *Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements.* The Regional Administrator may at any time supplement a draft or final environmental impact statement. The Regional Administrator shall prepare a supplement to either the draft or final environmental impact statement when required under the criteria set forth in §1502.9(2). The Regional Administrator will prepare, circulate, and file a supplement to a statement in the same fashion (exclusive of scoping) as a draft or final statement and will introduce the supplement into their formal administrative record.

(d) *Circulation of Environmental Impact Statements.* The Regional Administrator shall circulate draft and final environmental impact statements as prescribed in §1502.19 of CEQ regulations. Prior to signing off on a draft or final impact statement, the Regional Administrator shall obtain the approval of the Environmental Officer and OCC.

[45 FR 41142, June 18, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 13149, Mar. 29, 1982]

§ 10.11 Environmental information.

Interested persons may contact the Environmental Officer or the Regional

Administrator for information regarding FEMA's compliance with NEPA.

[45 FR 41142, June 18, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 13149, Mar. 29, 1982]

§ 10.12 Pre-implementation actions.

(a) *Decision-making.* The Regional Administrator shall ensure that decisions are made in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Act and that the NEPA process is integrated into the decision-making process. Because of the diversity of FEMA, it is not feasible to describe in this part the decision-making process for each of the various FEMA programs. Proposals and actions may be initiated at any level. Similarly, review and approval authority may be exercised at various levels depending on the nature of the action, available funding, and statutory authority. FEMA offices and administrations shall provide further guidance, commensurate with their programs and organization, for integration of environmental considerations into the decision-making process. The Regional Administrator shall:

(1) Consider all relevant environmental documents in evaluating proposals for Agency action;

(2) Make all relevant environmental documents, comments, and responses part of the record in formal rule-making or adjudicatory proceedings;

(3) Ensure that all relevant environmental documents, comments and responses accompany the proposal through existing Agency review processes;

(4) Consider only those alternatives encompassed by the range of alternatives discussed in the relevant environmental documents when evaluating proposals for Agency action;

(5) Where an EIS has been prepared, consider the specific alternatives analyzed in the EIS when evaluating the proposal which is the subject of the EIS.

(b) *Record of decision.* In those cases requiring environmental impact statements, the Regional Administrator at the time of his/her decision, or if appropriate, his/her recommendation to Congress, shall prepare a concise public record of that decision. The record of decision is not intended to be an extensive, detailed document for the purpose