

§ 137.291

- (5) Coastal Barrier Improvement Act [42 U.S.C. 4028 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 3501];
- (6) Coastal Barrier Resources Act [16 U.S.C. 3501];
- (7) Coastal Zone Management Act [16 U.S.C. 1451];
- (8) Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act [42 U.S.C. 9601];
- (9) Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*];
- (10) Farmland Protection Policy Act [7 U.S.C. 4201 *et seq.*];
- (11) Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act [33 U.S.C. 1401–1445; 16 U.S.C. 1431–1447F; 33 U.S.C. 2801–2805];
- (12) National Historic Preservation Act [16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*];
- (13) National Trails System Act [16 U.S.C. 1241];
- (14) Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act [25 U.S.C. 3001];
- (15) Noise Control Act [42 U.S.C. 4901];
- (16) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [42 U.S.C. 6901];
- (17) Safe Drinking Water Act [42 U.S.C. 300F];
- (18) Toxic Substance Control Act [15 U.S.C. 2601];
- (19) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act [16 U.S.C. 1271]; and
- (20) Wilderness Act [16 U.S.C. 1131].

(b) This section provides a list of environmental laws for informational purposes only and does not create any legal rights or remedies, or imply private rights of action.

§ 137.291 May Self-Governance Tribes carry out construction projects without assuming these Federal environmental responsibilities?

Yes, but not under section 509 of the Act [25 U.S.C. 458aaa–8]. Self-Governance Tribes may otherwise elect to perform construction projects, or phases of construction projects, under other legal authorities (see § 137.272).

§ 137.292 How do Self-Governance Tribes assume environmental responsibilities for construction projects under section 509 of the Act [25 U.S.C. 458aaa–8]?

Self-Governance Tribes assume environmental responsibilities by:

- (a) Adopting a resolution or taking an equivalent Tribal action which:

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- (1) Designates a certifying officer to represent the Self-Governance Tribe and to assume the status of a responsible Federal official under NEPA, NHPA, and related provisions of law; and

(2) Accepts the jurisdiction of the Federal court, as provided in § 137.310 and § 137.311 for purposes of enforcement of the Federal environmental responsibilities assumed by the Self-Governance Tribe; and

- (b) Entering into a construction project agreement under section 509 of the Act [25 U.S.C. 458aaa–8].

§ 137.293 Are Self-Governance Tribes required to adopt a separate resolution or take equivalent Tribal action to assume environmental responsibilities for each construction project agreement?

No, the Self-Governance Tribe may adopt a single resolution or take equivalent Tribal action to assume environmental responsibilities for a single project, multiple projects, a class of projects, or all projects performed under section 509 of the Act [25 U.S.C. 458aaa–8].

§ 137.294 What is the typical IHS environmental review process for construction projects?

(a) Most IHS construction projects normally do not have a significant impact on the environment, and therefore do not require environmental impact statements (EIS). Under current IHS procedures, an environmental review is performed on all construction projects. During the IHS environmental review process, the following activities may occur:

- (1) Consult with appropriate Tribal, Federal, state, and local officials and interested parties on potential environmental effects;

(2) Document assessment of potential environmental effects; (IHS has developed a form to facilitate this process.)

- (3) Perform necessary environmental surveys and inventories;

(4) Consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, acting through the SHPO or THPO, to ensure compliance with the NHPA;

- (5) Determine if extraordinary or exceptional circumstances exist that

would prevent the project from meeting the criteria for categorical exclusion from further environmental review under NEPA, or if an environmental assessment is required;

(6) Obtain environmental permits and approvals; and

(7) Identify methods to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects;

(b) This section is for informational purposes only and does not create any legal rights or remedies, or imply private rights of action.

§ 137.295 May Self-Governance Tribes elect to develop their own environmental review process?

Yes, Self-Governance Tribes may develop their own environmental review process or adopt the procedures of the IHS or the procedures of another Federal agency.

§ 137.296 How does a Self-Governance Tribe comply with NEPA and NHPA?

Self-Governance Tribes comply with NEPA and the NHPA by adopting and following:

(a) their own environmental review procedures;

(b) the procedures of the IHS; and/or

(c) the procedures of another Federal agency.

§ 137.297 If the environmental review procedures of a Federal agency are adopted by a Self-Governance Tribe, is the Self-Governance Tribe responsible for ensuring the agency's policies and procedures meet the requirements of NEPA, NHPA, and related environmental laws?

No, the Federal agency is responsible for ensuring its own policies and procedures meet the requirements of NEPA, NHPA, and related environmental laws, not the Self-Governance Tribe.

§ 137.298 Are Self-Governance Tribes required to comply with Executive Orders to fulfill their environmental responsibilities under section 509 of the Act [25 U.S.C. 458aaa-8]?

No, but Self-Governance Tribes may at their option, choose to voluntarily comply with Executive Orders. For facilities where ownership will vest with the Federal Government upon completion of the construction, Tribes and the

Secretary may agree to include the goals and objectives of Executive Orders in the codes and standards of the construction project agreement.

§ 137.299 Are Federal funds available to cover the cost of Self-Governance Tribes carrying out environmental responsibilities?

Yes, funds are available:

(a) for project-specific environmental costs through the construction project agreement; and

(b) for environmental review program costs through a funding agreement and/or a construction project agreement.

§ 137.300 Since Federal environmental responsibilities are new responsibilities, which may be assumed by Tribes under section 509 of the Act [25 U.S.C. 458aaa-8], are there additional funds available to Self-Governance Tribes to carry out these formerly inherently Federal responsibilities?

Yes, the Secretary must transfer not less than the amount of funds that the Secretary would have otherwise used to carry out the Federal environmental responsibilities assumed by the Self-Governance Tribe.

§ 137.301 How are project and program environmental review costs identified?

(a) The Self-Governance Tribe and the Secretary should work together during the initial stages of project development to identify program and project related costs associated with carrying out environmental responsibilities for proposed projects. The goal in this process is to identify the costs associated with all foreseeable environmental review activities.

(b) If unforeseen environmental review and compliance costs are identified during the performance of the construction project, the Self-Governance Tribe or, at the request of the Self-Governance Tribe, the Self-Governance Tribe and the Secretary (with or without amendment as required by § 137.363) may do one or more of the following:

(1) Mitigate adverse environmental effects;

(2) Alter the project scope of work; and/or