initiated with the Secretary of the Interior by either the State Director or the Adminis-
trator for a National Office activity. FmHA
or its successor agency under Public Law 103–354 shall request the Secretary’s views as
to whether the exception criteria are met
and shall provide the Secretary with the fol-
lowing information:
(1) A detailed description of the action and
its location;
(2) A description of the affected environ-
ment within the System and the impacts of
the proposed action;
(3) The applicable exception criteria and
FmHA or its successor agency under Public
Law 103–354’s reasons for believing they
apply to this action; and
(4) If a Section 6(a)(6) exception is claimed,
FmHA or its successor agency under Public
Law 103–354’s reasons for believing the action
to be consistent with the purposes of the
Act.

Should the Secretary concur in the excep-
tion criteria being met, that portion of the
environmental assessment relating to com-
pliance with the Act shall be completed and
the corresponding documentation attached. Should the Secretary not concur, a final deci-
sion on the approval or denial of the action
must be made by the Administrator.

EXHIBIT G TO SUBPART G OF PART 1940
[RESERVED]

EXHIBIT H TO SUBPART G OF PART 1940—
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
CLASS II ACTIONS

In completing this assessment, it is impor-
tant to understand the comprehensive na-
ture of the impacts which must be analyzed.
Consideration must be given to all potential
impacts associated with the construction of
the project, its operation and maintenance,
the operation of all identified primary bene-
ficiaries, and the attainment of the project’s
major objectives, whether they be an in-
creased housing stock, community improve-
ment, economic development, or greater ag-
icultural productivity. This last category,
the attainment of the project’s major objec-
tives, often induces or supports changes in
population densities, land uses, community
services, transportation systems and re-
source consumption. The scope of the assess-
ment is to give the preparer an understanding
of a standard range of impacts, environ-
mental factors, and issues which may be en-
countered. In preparing an assessment, each
topic heading identified by a Roman numeral
and each environmental factor listed under
topic heading IV, such as air quality, for ex-
ample, must be addressed.

The amount of analysis and material that
must be provided will depend upon the type
and size of the project, the environment in
which it is located, and the range and com-
plicity of the potential impacts. The amount
of analysis and detail provided, therefore,
must be commensurate with the magnitude
of the expected impact. The analysis of each
environmental factor (i.e., water quality)
must be taken to the point that a conclusion
can be reached and supported concerning the
degree of the expected impact with respect
to that factor.

For example, a small community center
may not require detailed information on air
emissions or solid waste management, but an
industrial facility would. Similarly, an irri-
gation project for a farming operation would
concentrate on such factors as water quality
and fish and wildlife, rather than land use
changes. The extension of a water or sewer
system or the approval of a subdivision, on
the other hand, would have to give close at-
tention to all factors, with potential land
use changes being a particularly important
one.

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND NEED

Identify the name, project number, loca-
tion, and specific elements of the project
along with their sizes, and, when applicable,
their design capacities. Indicate the purpose
of the project, FmHA or its successor agency
under Public Law 103–354’s position regard-
ing the need for it, and the extent or area of
land to be considered as the project site.