

## **TERMS / ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS**



The following terms, abbreviations and definitions are frequently used when discussing HUD environmental requirements.

**Activity** - An action that a Responsible Entity puts forth as part of an assisted project, regardless of whether its cost is to be borne by local funds or is eligible expense for CDBG reimbursement.

**Categorical Exclusion** - An activity that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect upon the environment as specified in regulations adopted by HUD (24 CFR Part 58.35). In such cases, neither an environmental assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. However, categorically excluded projects must obtain a release of funds and comply with additional environmental requirements such as those identified in Section 58.5. These include, but are not limited to, analysis of historic properties, floodplain management, and wetland protection.

**CEQ** - Council on Environmental Quality.

**Certifying Officer or Agency Official** - It is the statutory obligation of the Federal agency to fulfill the requirements of Section 106 and to ensure that an agency official with jurisdiction over an undertaking takes legal and financial responsibility for the environmental review and Section 106 compliance.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)** - A concise public document (Part 58, Subpart F) that provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). An EA must include brief discussions of the need for the proposal, of alternatives where required under the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA], and of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives, as well as a listing of agencies and persons consulted with documentation of comment periods, comments, and responses and/or actions.

**Environmental Impact** - Any alteration of existing environmental conditions, or creation of a new set of environmental conditions, caused or induced in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by a proposed project.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** - A detailed written statement as required by § 102 (2)(c) of NEPA describing, analyzing and assessing any alteration of environmental conditions or creation of a new set of environmental conditions, adverse or beneficial, caused or induced by the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action.

**Environmental Review Record (ERR)** - A written record of the environmental review process, maintained by the Responsible Entity, that is available for public review.

**Exempt Activities** - Any activity that is exempt from environmental review requirements of Part 58, including the NEPA-related laws listed at 24 CFR 58.5. Exempt activities are listed at 24 CFR 58.34 (see also 24 CFR 58.35(c)). Such activities may still be subject to compliance with authorities listed in 24 CFR 58.6. Exempt activities may include administrative activities, feasibility and engineering studies, outreach, and other activities that do not affect the human and physical environment.

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)** - A document briefly presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise categorically excluded or exempt, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an EIS is not required to be prepared. The FONSI must include the environmental assessment, or summary of it, and note any other environmental documents related to it. If the assessment is included, the FONSI need not repeat any of the discussion in the assessment but may incorporate it by reference.

**Historic Property** - Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties.

**Human Environment** - Interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. This means that economic or social effects are not intended by themselves to require preparation of an EIS. When an EIS is prepared and economic/social and natural or physical environment effects are interrelated, then the EIS will discuss all of these effects on the human environment.

**National Register** - Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original location, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance;
- b. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event;
- c. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life;
- d. A cemetery which derived its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events;
- e. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived;
- f. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance;
- g. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

**NEPA** - The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

**NOI / EIS** - Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**NOI / RROF** - Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds.

**Project** - Part 58 defines "project" as an activity, or group of integrally related activities, designed by the grant recipient to accomplish, in whole or in part, a specific goal.

**ROF** - Release of Funds.

**RROF** - Request for Release of Funds