

Flowchart for Processing Environmental Assessments

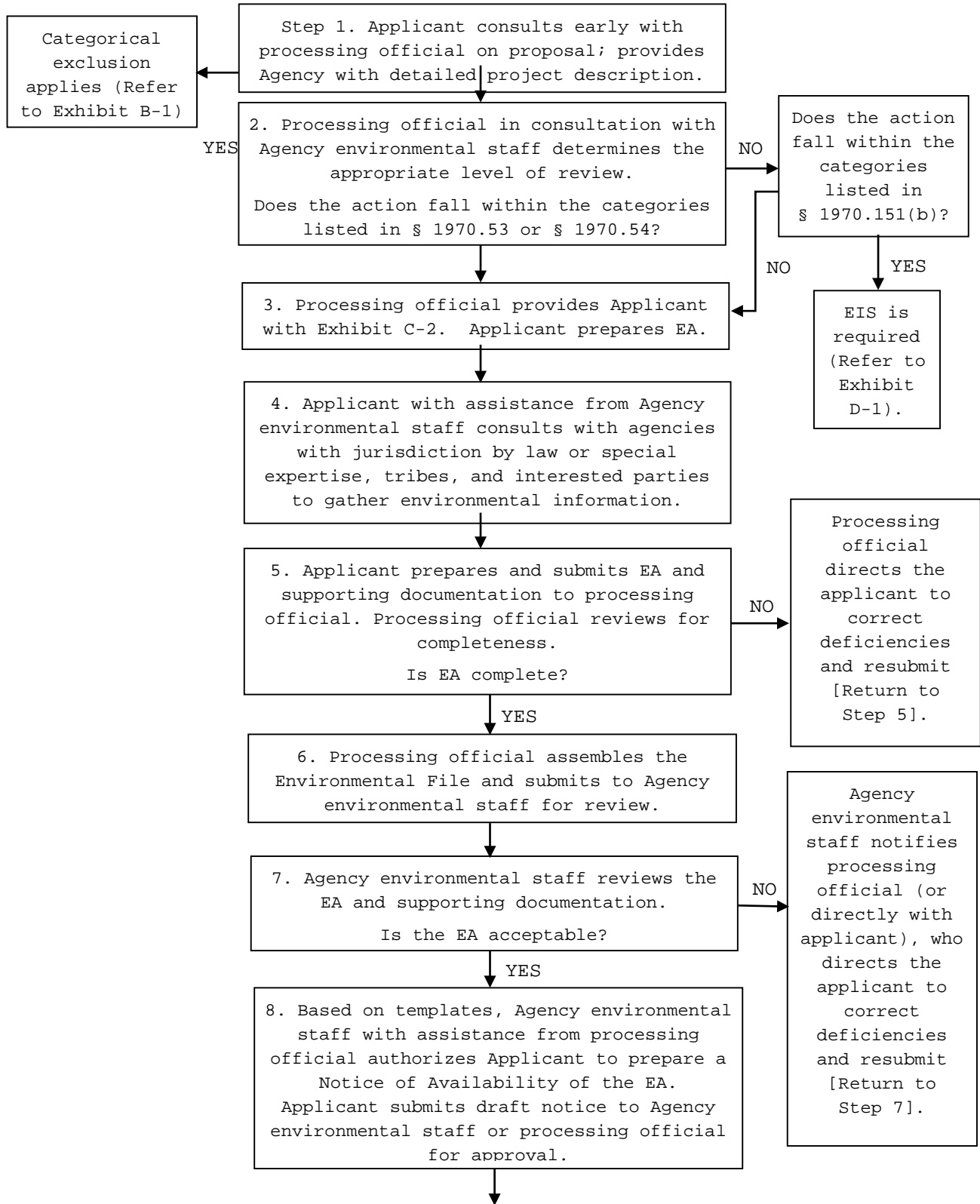
In accordance with § 1970.101, the Agency will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for actions that are not categorically excluded under §§ 1970.53 through 1970.55 or that do not require preparation of an EIS under § 1970.151. The Agency will also prepare an EA for Agency proposals for legislation and for the promulgation of rules or formal notices for new programs or major revisions to existing programs that would allow for major construction or changes in operation. This flowchart describes how Agency staff will process EAs (see also § 1970.102(b)).

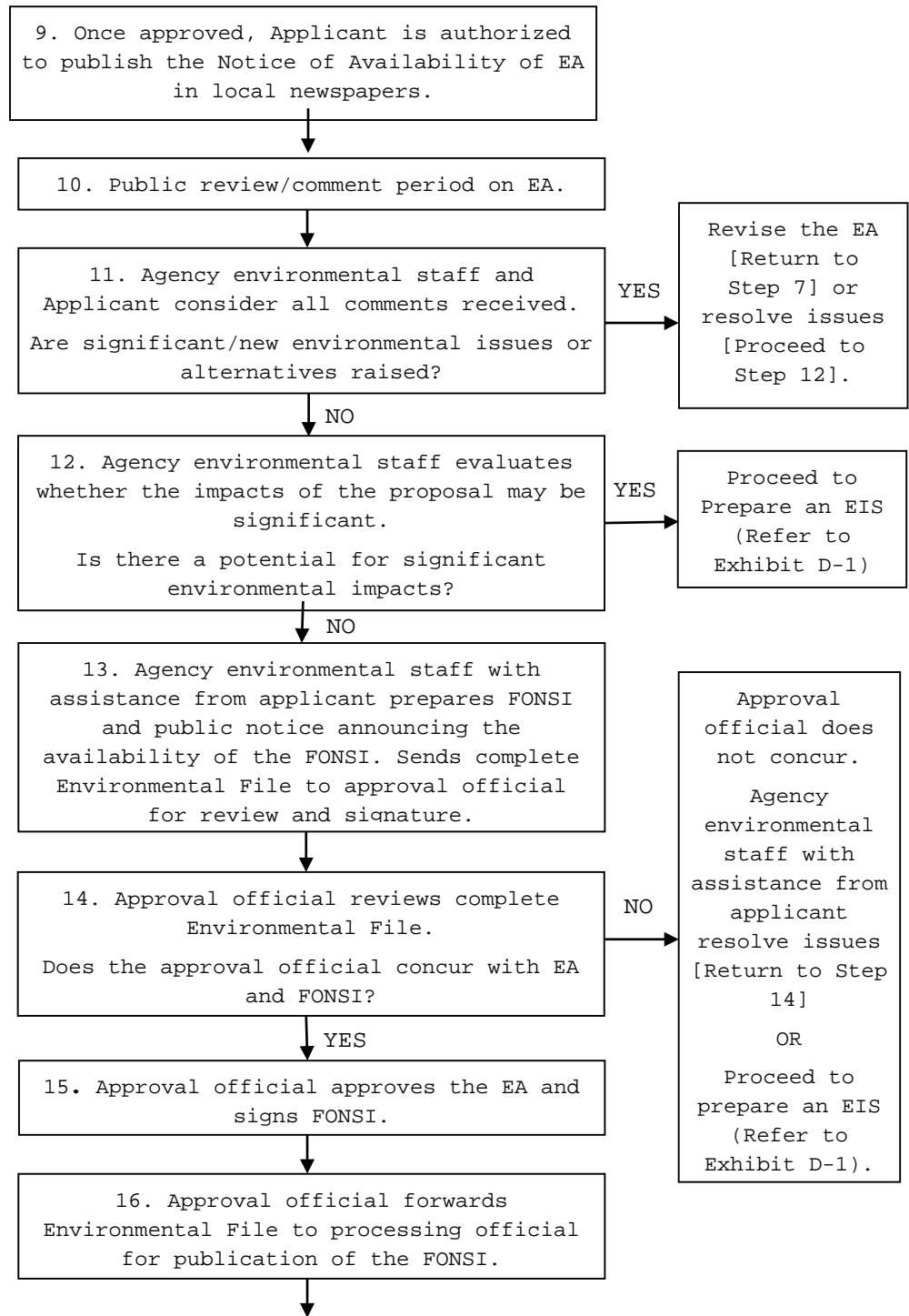
The following definitions apply to the flowchart:

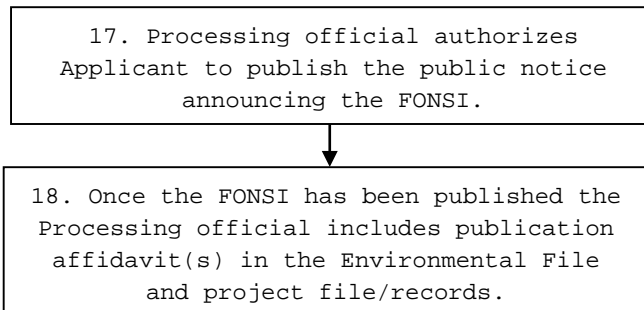
Processing Official: For Water and Waste Disposal, Business, Community Facilities (CF), and Housing Programs this would typically be the State or Area Office loan specialist. For Electric and Telecommunication Programs this would be the appropriate National Office loan specialist.

Approval Official: For Water and Waste Disposal, Business, CF, and Housing Programs this would be the designated State Office program official. For Electric and Telecommunication Programs, this would be the appropriate National Office program official.

Environmental Staff: State Environmental Coordinator (SEC) for programs administered from the Agency's State Offices. National Office Environmental Staff (NES) for Agency programs administered from the Agency's National Office. The agency processing and approval officials will consult with the Agency environmental staff, as appropriate, to address any compliance issues with 7 CFR part 1970.







Note: If the applicant makes substantial changes to the proposal or if new information becomes available after the issuance of the EA or FONSI, it may be necessary to supplement the EA, as appropriate (see § 1970.103).