

EMERGENCY AND IMMINENT COMMUNITY WATER ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM Environmental Report

Overview

USDA Rural Development (RD) is required to assess the impacts of proposed federal actions, such as the provision of financial assistance through the Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grants Program (ECWAG), to the human environment. ECWAG applicants must complete an Environmental Report (ER) to submit with their applications. The ER provides information to RD so that it can either complete the environmental review process or determine the appropriate level of additional impact analyses needed. RD will notify applicants if additional information or analyses are necessary beyond what was submitted in the ER.

If there is no construction proposed in the application or the proposed action involves replacement-in-kind facilities then no additional environmental documentation is required. The applicant shall, however, provide an appropriate project description and, if necessary, location information in Section A below, and sign and date this document as the ER preparer in the space provided below. Once the RD State Environmental Coordinator concurs the environmental process is concluded.

No construction activities may begin until RD concludes and approves the environmental review process. In accordance with 7 CFR § 1794.15, applicants are prohibited from taking actions that may have adverse environmental impacts until RD has concluded the environmental review process.

Requested Information

A. Project Description and Location: Describe all project-related construction activities, including, but not limited to, the extension of water lines, additions to existing facilities or new facilities. Describe the amount of property to be cleared, excavated, fenced, or otherwise disturbed by the proposed action. Complete descriptions, locations and mapping must be provided for each site affected by project-related construction activities (recommend U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle or similar maps at a map scale of 1:24,000). USGS maps may be obtained and purchased at the following [website](#). All project elements, if known at the time of the application, must be clearly depicted on any map provided. If appropriate, photographs or aerial photographs of site-specific proposals may be provided.

B. Wetlands: Describe and indicate whether wetlands are present on or near any project sites affected by proposed construction (maps of wetlands may be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory [website](#) or maps of hydric soils from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service's [website](#)). If wetlands are identified within the project area, document where the project components will be located in relation to the identified wetland areas.

C. Threatened and Endangered Species: Describe and indicate whether any proposed project sites will directly or indirectly affect any threatened, endangered or candidate species, or are within or near critical habitats. Applicants must provide species lists and appropriate species accounts (i.e. requisite habitat or other life history information useful in determining potential effects) for each county affected by construction. This information can be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) [website](#). Information about potential critical habitat areas can also be found on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [website](#). Depending on information provided, RD may need to consult directly with the USFWS prior to concluding the Section 7 consultation process.

D. Floodplains: Describe and indicate whether any facilities or sites are located within a 100-year or 500-year floodplain. If any project-related construction activities are within floodplains, a copy of a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) with construction activities delineated on it must be included. Information related to floodplains and National Flood Insurance Maps may be obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) [website](#).

E. Coastal Areas: Determine whether the project area is within the boundaries of a coastal zone management area (CZMA). For boundary and contact information related to the CZMA, see the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management's [website](#).

F. Section 106 Review

RD will conduct Section 106 review for any extension of water lines, additions to existing facilities or new facilities. The required information to be gathered by the applicant as described below must be included in the ER. Databases and maps to assist in identifying known archeological sites and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed or eligible resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in your respective State. The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers' [website](#) provides a directory of SHPOs.

For all components of a proposed action the following requirements apply:

1. Water Line Extensions or Construction of New Facilities – For water line extensions, applicants must identify and describe, including type and status for listing on the NRHP, known archeological sites located within 50 feet of either side of the water line route and, if any, prior archeological surveys that have been conducted in this study area. For new facilities, applicants must identify and describe, including type and status for listing on the NRHP known archeological sites located in the project area or located within or adjacent to a historic district that is listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP. Include this information in the ER along with mapping that shows the relationship between these known sites and the project area as well as areas of planned disturbance.
2. Renovation/Rehabilitation of an Existing Building - If the building to be renovated is more than 50 years old, the applicant will determine if the structure is listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP, or located within or adjacent to a historic district that is listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP. The results of this study must be presented in the ER.

Environmental Report Preparer Signature

Date

Rural Development State Environmental Coordinator Concurrence

Date