

ReConnect Program | Project Environmental Questionnaire

Applicant Name: _____

Application Number: _____

Unless the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process has already been initiated with Tribes, the State Historic Preservation Office, or other interested parties, do not initiate the NHPA Section 106 process without first consulting with the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Please contact RUS by submitting a question through the Contact Us page (available at this link: <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/contact-us>). Go to the drop-down menu under “subject” and then click “Environmental.”

The Project Environmental Questionnaire (EQ) is intended to capture the appropriate environmental information for each proposed site and route included in the application, as well as the overall project. This information will be used in conjunction with each site and route EQ to determine the overall environmental compliance of the proposed project.

RUS will use this information to consider the environmental review process complete, or to determine the appropriate level of additional impact analyses needed in accordance with 7 CFR 1970: Environmental Policies and Procedures (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xeaXV>). RUS will notify applicants if additional information is necessary.

An applicant may submit a copy of any environmental review document that has been prepared in connection with obtaining permits, approvals, or other financing for the proposed project from state, local or other federal agencies. Such material – to the extent determined to be relevant – can be used to fulfill RUS environmental review requirements.

This EQ consists of two sections: “**Preliminary Environmental Questions**” and “**Detailed Environmental Responses**.” Responses under “Preliminary Environmental Questions” identify which portions of the “Detailed Environmental Responses” must be completed.

Please use as much space as needed to respond fully to each question in the Detailed Environmental Responses section. Additional information in support of any response can be added to the [Support Schedule](#) section located at the end of this EQ.

Preliminary Environmental Questions

- **Floodplains (Subpart F):** Do any of the applicant's site or route EQs identify a requirement for floodplain analysis to be conducted at the project level? If the response to Questions 2, 3, or 4 on any site or route EQ is YES, select YES.
 - NO The Floodplains review for this project is complete.
 - YES [Floodplains \(Subpart F\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.
- **Wetlands (Subpart G):** Do any of the applicant's site or route EQs identify a requirement for wetlands analysis to be conducted at the project level? If the response to Questions 3 or 4 on any site or route EQ is YES and the required permit type is not a USACE Individual Permit (already obtained and included as part of the application), select YES.
 - NO The Wetlands review for this project is complete.
 - YES [Wetlands \(Subpart G\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.
- **Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulations (Subpart I):** Does the proposed project threaten to violate any applicable federal, state, local statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health?
 - NO The Compliance review for this project is complete.
 - YES [Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulations \(Subpart I\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.
- **Hazardous Materials (Subpart J):** Will the proposed project result in production or handling of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum and natural gas products?
 - NO The Hazardous Materials review for this project is complete.
 - YES [Hazardous Materials \(Subpart J\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.

- **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Subpart J):** Does the proposed project involve the siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, including incinerators permitted by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)?

NO The RCRA review for this project is complete.

YES [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act \(Subpart J\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.

- **Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) (Subpart L):** Do any of the applicant's site or route EQs identify a site with total points calculated on a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (AD-1006 or NRCS CPA-106) (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xeDQZ>) equal to or greater than 160?

NO The FPPA review for this project is complete.

YES [Farmland Protection Policy Act \(FPPA\) \(Subpart L\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.

- **Formally Classified Lands (Subpart L):** Use the **Formally Classified Lands** layer available in the construction map in conjunction with local resources or maps that indicate state and local municipally-managed lands to determine overlap with formally classified lands. A detailed list of areas considered Formally Classified Lands can be found in RD Instruction 1970 – Subpart L – Land Use and Formally Classified Lands (available at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/1970l.pdf>).

Will the proposed action occur within or adjacent to any Formally Classified Lands?

NO The Formally Classified Lands review for this project is complete.

YES [Formally Classified Lands \(Subpart L\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.

- **Coral Reefs (Subpart N):** Use the **Coral Reef Ecosystem** group layer available in the construction map to determine overlap with a coral reef ecosystem. This consideration only applies to American Samoa, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Marianna Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Is any part of the proposed project located in an area designated as Habitat Boundary as identified by the **Coral Reef Ecosystem** group layer on the construction map?

NO The Coral Reefs review for this project is complete.

YES [Coral Reefs \(Subpart N\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.

- **Invasive Species (Subpart N):** Under Executive Order (EO) 13112 (available at this link: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/executive-order-13112>), Rural Development cannot authorize, fund, or carry out actions that are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere unless all reasonable measures to minimize risk of harm have been analyzed and considered. Complying with EO 13112 means federal assistance cannot be used for construction, re-vegetation, or landscaping of project areas that purposely include the use of known invasive plant species.

Will the proposed project include construction, re-vegetation, or landscaping of project areas that include the use of known invasive plant species?

NO

YES

- **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (Subpart N):** The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (available at this link: <https://www.fws.gov/le/USStatutes/BEPA.pdf>) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (available at this link: <https://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/migtrea.html>) apply to actions taken by the applicant. It is the applicant's responsibility to understand and comply with MBTA and BGEPA. The unauthorized taking of migratory birds or bald and golden eagles is a strict liability criminal offense which does not require knowledge or specific intent on the part of the offender. As such, even when engaged in an otherwise legal activity where the intent is not to kill or injure migratory birds or eagles, violations can occur if bird injury or death results.

Proposals involving the construction of overhead utility lines, wind turbines, or telecommunications towers may require pre-construction and post-construction monitoring, development of an avian protection plan that identifies measures to avoid or minimize impacts, and other best practices or mitigation measures to eliminate or minimize potential takings of birds protected under MBTA or BGEPA.

Is the applicant aware of its responsibilities under MBTA and BGEPA?

NO The applicant is unaware of its responsibilities under MBTA and BGEPA.

YES The applicant acknowledges its responsibilities under MBTA and BGEPA.

- **Threatened and Endangered Species (Subpart N):** Combine each site and route Endangered Species Table into a project-level table. Detailed guidance related to evaluating impacts to Threatened and Endangered Species can be found in RD Instruction 1970 – Subpart N – Biological Resources (available at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/1970n.pdf>).

Are any proposed findings on the project-level Endangered Species spreadsheet “May Affect-Not Likely to Adversely Affect,” or “May Affect-Likely to Adversely Affect?”

NO The Threatened and Endangered Species review for this project is complete.

YES [Threatened and Endangered Species \(Subpart N\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.

- **Air Quality (Subpart O):** Use the **Air Quality** group layer available in the construction map to determine overlap with any non-attainment or maintenance areas. Detailed guidance related to evaluating impacts to Air Quality and General Conformity can be found in RD Instruction 1970 – Subpart O – Miscellaneous Resources (available at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/1970o.pdf>).

Is any part of the proposed project located in a non-attainment or maintenance area as identified by the **Air Quality** group layer on the construction map?

NO The Air Quality review for this project is complete.

YES [Air Quality \(Subpart O\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.

- **Coastal Barriers (Subpart O):** Use the **Coastal Barriers (CBRS)** layer available in the construction map to determine overlap with an Otherwise Protected Area or System Unit. Detailed guidance related to evaluating impacts to Coastal Barriers can be found in RD Instruction 1970 – Subpart O – Miscellaneous Resources, (available at this link:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/1970o.pdf>).

Is any part of the proposed project located in an area designated as an Otherwise Protected Area or System Unit as identified by the **Coastal Barriers (CBRS)** layer on the construction map?

NO The Coastal Barriers review for this project is complete.

YES [Coastal Barriers \(Subpart O\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.

- **Coastal Zones (Subpart O):** Use the **Coastal Zone** layer available in the construction map to determine overlap with Coastal Zones. Detailed guidance related to evaluating impacts to coastal areas can be found in RD Instruction 1970 – Subpart O – Miscellaneous Resources (available at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/1970o.pdf>).

Is any part of the proposed project located in an area designated as a Coastal Zone as identified by the **Coastal Zone** layer on the construction map?

NO The Coastal Zones review for this project is complete.

YES [Coastal Zones \(Subpart O\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Responses section must be completed by the applicant.

- **Sole Source Aquifers (Subpart O):** Use the **Sole Source Aquifer** layer available in the construction map to determine overlap with Sole Source Aquifers. Detailed guidance related to evaluating impacts to Sole Source Aquifers can be found in RD Instruction 1970 – Subpart O – Miscellaneous Resources (available at this link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/1970o.pdf>).

Is any part of the proposed project located in an area designated as a Sole Source Aquifer as identified by the **Sole Source Aquifer** layer on the construction map?

NO The Sole Source Aquifers review for this project is complete.

YES [Sole Source Aquifers \(Subpart O\)](#) under the Detailed Environmental Response section must be completed by the applicant.

Detailed Environmental Responses

With the exception of the MBTA and BGEPA (Subpart N) question, if “NO” was selected for all Preliminary Environmental Questions, the EQ is complete, and no further evaluation is needed. If “YES” was selected for any of the Preliminary Environmental Questions, complete the identified section under the Detailed Environmental Responses section. Use as much space as necessary to respond fully to each question in this section. Additional information in support of any response can be added to the [Support Schedule](#) section located at the end of this EQ.

Publication Guidelines:

Public notices must be placed in a newspaper of general circulation (both in print and online) within the affected areas. The notice must be published in the non-classified section of the newspaper. If the affected area is largely non-English speaking or bilingual, the notice must be published in both English and non-English language newspapers serving the affected area, if both are available. In general, the timeframe between Preliminary and Final notices is 14 days, unless there is reason to extend the comment period.

- **Floodplains (Subpart F):** Complete the Public Notification and Private Party Notification Template Preliminary Public Notice Language for Potential Impacts to Floodplains (RD 1970 Subpart F Exhibit B Attachment B-1, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerdY>). The notice must include all sites that will be located in, or will have the potential to affect – or be affected by – a floodplain, as identified in the site or route EQ.

1) **Preliminary Notice.** Has the Preliminary Notice been published?

NO The Preliminary Notice must be published before the application can be submitted.

YES Upload the Preliminary Notice and an Affidavit of Publication to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

2) **Public Notice Period.** Has the minimum preliminary public notice period of 14 days elapsed since the publication of the Preliminary Notice?

NO Go to Question 3 of the Detailed Floodplains Review.

YES Upload any comments received to the Environmental Documents page of the ReConnect application system. Go to Question 3 of the Detailed Floodplains Review.

- 3) **Practicable Alternatives.** For each site that may impact a floodplain, identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the proposed action in the floodplain. Include off-site and on-site alternatives, other configurations or other avoidance actions, and the “no action” alternative, as appropriate. By definition, a “practicable” alternative is one which can be implemented considering cost, logistics, and technology. If no practicable alternatives exist, this must be explained. For example, for a proposed structure inside the floodplain, example alternatives include constructing the structure outside the floodplain, elevating the structure out of the floodplain, and the “no action” alternative. The “no action” alternative must be considered for each site. **Reminder: Please use as much space as you need to respond to the questions in this section.**

- 4) **Identify Floodplain’s Beneficial Functions.** Identify the floodplain’s beneficial functions and values such as water quality improvement, water filtration, floodwater storage, fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and biological productivity. Please use as much space as you need to respond below.

5) **Identify Adverse Impacts.** Analyze the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the applicant's proposal to the following factors:

a) **Natural environment (topography, water sources, habitat areas, and so on):**

- Direct impacts that occur at the same time and place as the activity:

- Indirect impacts that occur away from construction or after the activity:

- Cumulative impacts that illustrate the total impact to a floodplain, including impacts prior to the activity, project activity itself, and the activities of others:

b) **Social concerns (aesthetics, historic and cultural values, land use patterns, and so on):**

- Direct Impacts that occur at the same time and place as the activity:

- Indirect impacts that occur away from construction or after the activity:

- Cumulative impacts that illustrate the total impact to a floodplain, including impacts prior to the activity, project activity itself, and the activities of others:

c) **Economic and engineering aspects (costs of construction, transportation, access, ingress, egress, and so on):**

- Direct impacts that occur at the same time and place as the activity:

- Indirect impacts that occur away from construction, or after the activity:

- Cumulative impacts that illustrate the total impact to a floodplain, including impacts prior to the activity, project activity itself, and the activities of others:

d) **Legal considerations (permits, leases, deed restrictions, setbacks, and so on):**

6) **Mitigate Adverse Impacts.** Mitigation¹ can take the form of avoidance, minimization of floodplain impacts, or compensation for impacts, and can include all efforts to minimize the adverse impacts to floodplains identified previously.

- **Avoidance:** What actions can be taken to avoid impacts to floodplains?

- **Minimization:** What actions can be taken to reduce and control impacts to floodplains?

¹ For the purposes of EO 11988, flood insurance is not considered a mitigation strategy, but may be required by the agency for actions that occur in a 100-year flood plain.

- **Compensation:** What actions are needed to compensate for any impacts that remain?

- 7) **Re-evaluate Alternatives:** For each site that has the potential to impact a floodplain, re-evaluate the proposed action to determine if it is still practicable. The analysis of each alternative should discuss:

- any remaining exposure to flood hazards
- the extent to which the action will aggravate hazards
- the potential to disrupt floodplain values

Alternatives rejected earlier should be re-evaluated as to whether they are practicable in light of the identified impacts and proposed mitigation. Once again, the “no action” alternative must be considered for each site or route.

- 8) **Final Notice.** Has the analysis identified practicable alternatives to avoid, minimize, or compensate for all impacts of the proposed action on floodplains?

NO Complete the Public Notice and Private Party Notice Template, Final Public Notice Language for Potential Impacts to Floodplains (RD 1970 Subpart F Exhibit B Attachment B-3, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerdT>). The notice must include all sites

that will be located in, or will have the potential to affect, or be affected by a floodplain, as identified in the site and route EQs. Publish notice in accordance with the aforementioned [Publication Guidelines](#).

YES Implement the practicable alternative that will avoid, minimize, or compensate for all impacts of the proposed action on floodplains. The Floodplains review for this project is complete.

9) **Final Notice.** Has the Final Notice been published?

NO Once the final notice has been published, upload the Final Notice, an Affidavit of Publication, and any comments received to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

YES Upload the Final Notice, an Affidavit of Publication, and any comments received to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

- **Wetlands (Subpart G):**

1) Which of the following are required, as identified by the site and route EQs?

USACE Individual Permit

- **The individual permit has been issued.** Upload the permit under the Environmental Documents section of this application. Once uploaded, the Wetlands review for this project is complete.

USACE Individual Permit

- **The individual permit has not yet been obtained.** Complete Questions 2 through 10 of the Detailed Wetlands Review.

USACE Nationwide or General Permit

- Complete Questions 4 through 8 of the Detailed Wetlands Review.

Local permit – **or** – unknown permit – **or** – permit undetermined

- Complete Questions 2 through 10 of the Detailed Wetlands Review.

2) **Preliminary Notice.** Complete the Public Notice Template, Preliminary Public Notice for Potential Impacts to Wetlands (RD Instruction 1970 Subpart G, Exhibit B, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerdb>). Include in the notice all sites and routes whose site or route EQ indicated project level analysis was required. Publish notice in accordance with the aforementioned [Publication](#)

Guidelines.

Has the Preliminary Notice been published?

NO Applicants must publish the Preliminary Notice and upload it along with an Affidavit of Publication to the Environmental Documents section of this application before the application can be submitted.

YES Upload the Preliminary Notice and an Affidavit of Publication to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

3) **Public Comments.** Has the minimum preliminary public notice period of 14 days elapsed since the publication of the Preliminary Notice?

NO Go to Question 4 of the Detailed Wetlands Review.

YES Upload any comments received to the Environmental Documents section of this application. Go to Question 4 of the Detailed Wetlands Review.

4) **Practicable Alternatives.** For each site that may impact a wetland, identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the proposed action in the wetland. A "practicable" alternative is one which can be implemented considering cost, logistics, and technology. If no practicable alternatives exist, this must be explained. Include off-site and on-site alternatives, alternative configurations, other avoidance actions, and the "no action" alternative, as appropriate. The "no action" alternative must be considered for each site.

- 5) **Identify Wetland's Beneficial Functions.** Identify the wetland's beneficial functions and values, such as water quality improvement, water filtration, floodwater storage, fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and biological productivity.

- 6) **Identify Adverse Impacts.** Analyze the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the applicant's proposal to the following factors:

- a) **Natural environment (topography, water sources, habitat areas, and so on):**

- Direct impacts are those that occur at the same time and place as the activity:

- Indirect impacts that occur away from construction or after the activity:

- Cumulative impacts that illustrate the total impact to a wetland, including impacts prior to the activity, project activity itself, and the activities of others:

b) **Social concerns (aesthetics, historic and cultural values, land use patterns, and so on):**

- Direct impacts are those that occur at the same time and place as the activity:

- Indirect impacts that occur away from construction or after the activity:

- Cumulative impacts that illustrate the total impact to a wetland, including impacts prior to the activity, project activity itself, and the activities of others:

c) Economic and engineering aspects (costs of construction, transportation, access, ingress, egress, and so on):

- Direct impacts are those that occur at the same time and place as the activity:

- Indirect impacts that occur away from construction or after the activity:

- Cumulative impacts that illustrate the total impact to a wetland, including impacts prior to the activity, project activity itself, and the activities of others:

- d) **Legal considerations (permits, leases, deed restrictions, setbacks, and so on):**

- 7) **Mitigate Adverse Impacts.** Mitigation can take the form of avoidance, minimization of - or compensation for – wetland impacts, and can include all efforts to minimize adverse impacts to wetlands identified previously.

- **Avoidance:** What actions can be taken to avoid impacts to the wetlands?

- **Minimization:** What actions can be taken to reduce and control impacts to the wetlands?

- **Compensation:** What actions are needed to compensate for any impacts that remain?

- 8) **Re-evaluate Alternatives:** For each site that may impact wetlands, re-evaluate the proposed action to determine if it is still practicable. The analysis of each alternative should include discussion of:

- any remaining impacts to wetlands
- the potential to disrupt wetland values.

Alternatives rejected earlier should be re-evaluated as to whether they are practicable in light of the identified impacts and proposed mitigation. Once again, the “no action” alternative must be considered for each site and route.

- 9) **Final Notice.** Has the analysis identified practicable alternatives to avoid, minimize, or compensate for all impacts of the proposed action on wetlands?

NO Complete the Public Notice and Private Party Notification Template, Final Public Notice Language for Potential Impacts to Wetlands (RD 1970 Subpart G Exhibit B Attachment B-1, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerdj>). Include in the notice all sites that will be located in, or will have the potential to affect – or be affected by – a wetland, as identified in the site and route EQs. Publish notice in accordance with the aforementioned [Publication Guidelines](#).

YES Implement the practicable alternative that will avoid, minimize, or compensate for all impacts of the proposed action on wetlands. The Wetlands review for this project is complete.

- 10) **Final Notice.** Has the Final Notice been published?

NO Once the final notice has been published, upload the Final Notice, an Affidavit of Publication, and any comments received to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

YES Upload the Final Notice, an Affidavit of Publication, and any comments received to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

- **Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulations (Subpart I):** Describe any violation and upload relevant documents under the Environmental Documents section of this application.

- **Hazardous Materials (Subpart J):** Describe any potential releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum and natural gas products. Describe any permits associated with hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum and natural gas products, and upload copies of permits under the Environmental Documents section of this application.

- **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Subpart J):** Describe the siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities – including incinerators permitted by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act – and attach relevant documents under the Environmental Documents Section of this document.

- **Farmland Protection Policy Act (Subpart L):**

Complete the Public Notice Template for Farmland Conversion (RD 1970 Subpart L Exhibit A, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerdZ>). Include in the notice all sites that have a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating greater than or equal to 160. Post the completed public notice of the proposed action at the closest post office on community bulletin board for 7 days. Include postmarks on the notice to document the date it was posted and the date it was removed.

1) Has the public posting period elapsed?

NO Upload postmarked Farmland Conversion Notice to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

YES Upload postmarked Farmland Conversion Notice and any comments received to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

- **Formally Classified Lands (Subpart L):**

Contact that land's managing agency to obtain permission to proceed.

1) Does the applicant have a special use permit to construct on the Formally Classified Lands for the applicable managing agency or agencies?

NO Please contact RUS using the Contact Us page (available at this link: <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/contact-us>) and describe the project. Additional information may be requested by RUS at the time the application is reviewed.

YES Applicants must contact the formally classified lands' managing agency(s) to ensure that the permit they have in place is applicable for the proposed project.

2) Have the appropriate managing agency or agencies been contacted?

NO Applicants must contact the formally classified lands' managing agency and upload evidence of that correspondence to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

YES Upload copies of all correspondence to and from the managing agency or agencies – along with any required mitigating measures – to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

- **Coral Reefs (Subpart N):**

Explain whether the proposal has the potential to impact coral reefs.

- **Threatened and Endangered Species (Subpart N):**

- 1) Are any proposed findings on the project-level Endangered Species spreadsheet “May Affect-Likely to Adversely Affect?”

NO Populate the Informal Consultation and Concurrence Request Template (RD 1970 Subpart N Exhibit B Attachment B-2, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerdk>) and upload to the Environmental Documents section of this application. RUS will determine if informal consultation is required.

YES RUS must initiate formal consultation. The applicant will be contacted by RUS if additional information is required.

- 2) Has correspondence with the appropriate service or services been initiated?

NO Applicants must initiate correspondence with the appropriate agency and upload evidence of correspondence to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

YES Upload all Threatened and Endangered Species information, analysis, and appropriate correspondence with the service or services to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

- **Air Quality (Subpart O):**

Is the proposal exempt from conformity determination (per 40 CFR 93.153(c)(2) – available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerDU>)?

NO Develop an emissions inventory to verify if the emissions from the project exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) de minimis levels for criteria pollutants (per 40CFR93.153(c)(1), available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerdU>). Please upload the emissions inventory to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

YES Identify the exemption and explain.

- **Coastal Barriers (Subpart O):**

- 1) Is the project excepted (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerpv>) under Section 6 of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) 16USC 3505.a.6, available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerde>)?

NO The project is ineligible for funding.

YES Explain below.

- 2) If the project is excepted under Section 6 of the CBRA, consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required. Use the **Subpart O Template for Inter-Agency CBRA Consultations** (available at this link: <https://go.usa.gov/xerdw>) to initiate consultation on behalf of RUS. Has contact been initiated with USFWS?

NO Consultation with USFWS must be initiated.

YES Upload all Coastal Barrier documentation and consultation to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

- **Coastal Zones (Subpart O):**

- 1) Explain below whether the proposal is subject to Federal Consistency review by the appropriate state agency. Detailed guidance and activity lists can be found at the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, State Federal Consistency Lists (available at this link: <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/consistency/states/>).
- 2) If the project is subject to Federal Consistency Review, submit the required package to the appropriate Coastal Zone Management Program (available at this link: <https://coast.noaa.gov/czm/mystate/>).

Has the required package been uploaded to the appropriate Coastal Zone Management Program?

NO The application cannot be submitted until the Federal Consistency Review has been initiated.

YES Upload the Consistency Review documents and all correspondence to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

- **Sole Source Aquifers (Subpart O):**

- 1) Explain whether the proposal has the potential to contaminate designated Sole Source Aquifers (SSA) or adversely affect an SSA recharge area. Go to Question 2 of the Detailed Sole Source Aquifers Review.

- 2) If the project lies within – or will affect – an SSA or its recharge area, the appropriate EPA regional office must be contacted to determine review requirements. Has contact been initiated with the appropriate EPA regional office?

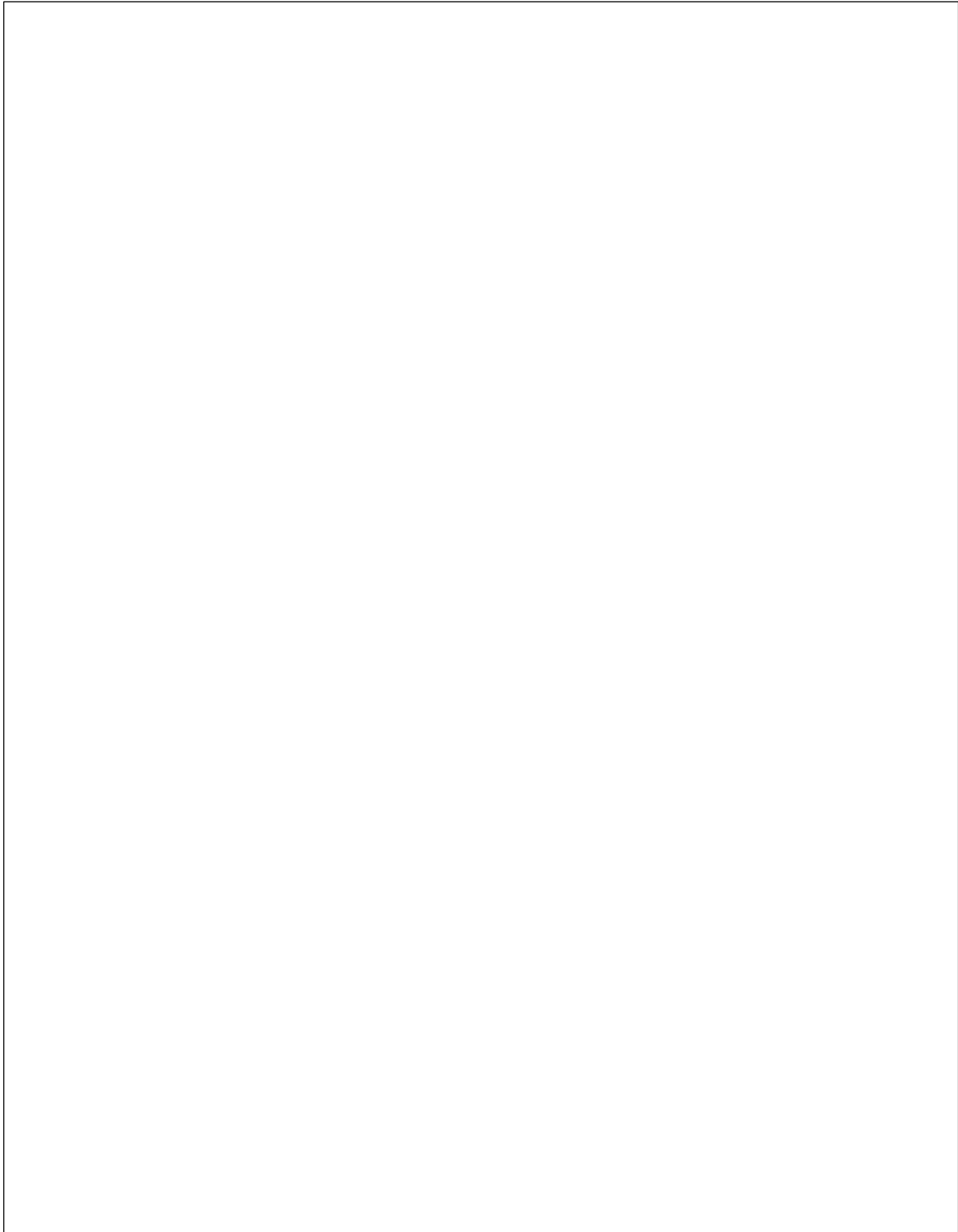
NO Applicants must initiate contact with the appropriate EPA regional office and upload any correspondence to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

YES Upload the results of the EPA's review and all correspondence to the Environmental Documents section of this application.

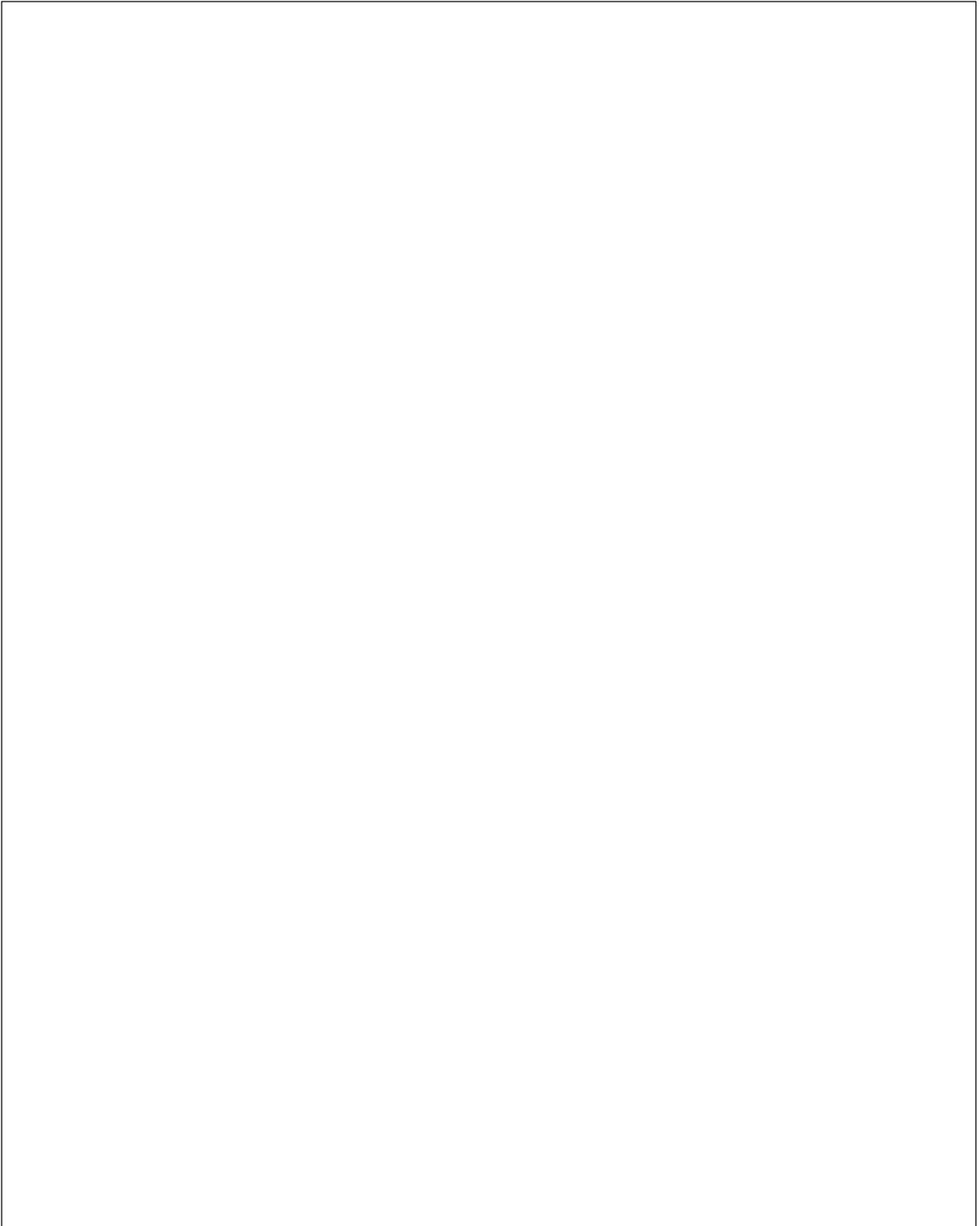
- **Support Schedule**



- **Support Schedule ... continued**



- **Support Schedule ... continued**



- **Support Schedule ... continued**

