

Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIP) Office Hour (October 18, 2022)

Questions and Answers

Application

1. We are a Biodiesel producer and submitting a project for fuel dispensing equipment for truck loading. What NAISC code do we use fall under?

ANSWER: The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the industry classification used by the IRS. You will want to check your tax return to find this six-digit number or work with your accountant/tax professional to determine what this is. If the NAICS code is not included in the drop down, please use the "Other" option and manually enter it.

Environmental Review

1. Is there a site we can use to determine if a project site is in a historic district?

ANSWER: The link for the National Register is included with question 10 on the Preliminary Environmental Information Survey. You may also want to contact your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

2. If an applicant submits their environmental checklist to the HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov will this impact the online application status?

ANSWER: No, it will not. Applicants are instructed to submit their Preliminary Environmental Information Survey to the HigherBlendsGrants-access@usda.gov address and to upload the acknowledgement email they receive back into their online application.

3. Do we need to submit Phase 1 ESA for a project that's done on an existing production site?

ANSWER: A Phase 1 ESA is related to hazardous materials and is different than our NEPA review. A Phase 1 may be requested, depending on the level of review required, but generally is not needed. It could, however, be uploaded as supporting documentation if that makes an applicant feel more comfortable.

4. Are copies of permits needed as additional attachment supporting documents?

ANSWER: These are not required but can be uploaded as supporting documents if the applicant wishes to include them.

5. How do we use the linked EJ Screen website to determine if a proposal, "has any concerns or disproportionately high and or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations or low-income populations?" (Question number 29)

ANSWER: You will need to select the "Launch the EJScreen Tool" option, search by address, and then apply the Demographic Index found under the Socioeconomic Indicators map layer. If there is a high percentile impacted, you will need to justify if the project has a negative impact on the impacted populations.

6. For clarification. Do all maps and IPAC survey reports need to be included on the email for the Env. Checklist as well as any supporting documents attached to the application?

ANSWER: Yes.

7. What if my site doesn't have data in the FEMA website?

ANSWER: You will want to work with the Energy Coordinator and/or State Environmental Coordinator in the state the project is in for additional guidance.