

2017 Environmental Assessment Guidelines

Environmental assessments are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and related federal laws and authorities. The assessments are prepared to ensure that the City's proposed HUD-assisted, housing construction projects do not negatively impact the surrounding environment and that the property will not have an adverse environmental or health effect on end users. The end results of the environmental assessments should determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or that the project is a "finding of no significant impact" (FONSI).

Due to extensive analysis and reviews, the environmental assessment process should begin as early as possible to mitigate any negative impacts and to avoid construction delays. **The environmental review process should commence as soon as a proposed site is identified.**

Procedural steps for an environmental assessment include:

1. Conformance determination and/or consultation for all statutes, executive orders, or regulation such as Airport Hazards, Coastal Barrier Resources, Floodplain Management, Flood Insurance, Clean Air, Coastal Zone Management, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Endangered Species, Explosive and Flammable Hazards, Farmlands Protection, Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation (see below), Noise Abatement and Control, Sole Source Aquifers, Wetlands Protection, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Environmental Justice, and completion of environmental assessment factors.
Timeline: Approximately 12-18 months
2. Public Notice, if a FONSI has been determined
Timeline: 15 day-public comment period
3. HUD public objection period
Timeline: 15 days

Historic Preservation/ Section 106 Consultation Process

The Historic Preservation/Section 106 Consultation consists of four steps:

1. Initiation of consultation
2. Identification and evaluation of historic properties
3. Assessment of historic effects
4. Resolution/mitigation of adverse effects
 - The resolution of adverse effects may require a Memorandum of Agreement
 - Timeline: Approximately 12 months

For more information, review [Environmental Review and Procedures 24 CFR, Part 28](#) or contact Lucinda Metcalf at 703-746-3082 or cindy.metcalf@alexandriava.gov.