



Environmental Information Guidance

The Department of Energy's (DOE) decision whether and how to distribute federal funds is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.) and related regulatory requirements including, but not limited to, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). To assist DOE in complying with these regulatory requirements, recipients will have to provide environmental information at various stages. The first environmental document that is typically required is an *Environmental Considerations Summary* (ECS). The second required environmental document is the *Environmental Information Volume* (EIV).

What is an Environmental Considerations Summary?

The ECS is a summary of environmental information known about the proposed project and the proposed project location. DOE acknowledges that not all the information in the ECS may be available at the proposal stage; applicants should provide as many details as possible. DOE recommends consulting with experts or advisors in your organization to assist with your responses.

What is the Environmental Considerations Summary used for?

When a Funding Opportunity Announcement requires an ECS as part of the application package, DOE may use the information provided during the merit review and selection process.

After selection, DOE uses the ECS to complete the NEPA review process, and any related regulatory requirements including NHPA and ESA, necessary to issue the financial assistance award.

When is the Environmental Considerations Summary required?

Some Funding Opportunities Announcements require the ECS as part of the application. All applications that are selected for negotiation will require an ECS as part of the award process.

The ECS should be prepared after the scope of the award is negotiated with OCED. If the Funding Opportunity Announcement required an ECS, it will need to be updated during negotiations to reflect the proposed scope of work.

What should the Environmental Considerations Summary include?

The Environmental Considerations Summary Template includes a summary of the proposed project, the proposed project location and setting, a description of new construction or modifications to existing facilities, and identification of potentially impacted resource areas. It also asks for information on required permits, licenses, and authorizations.

The guidance provided below highlights areas of compliance typically required of recipients of Federal assistance awards. It is not intended to fully document all requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR Part 200 or 2 CFR § 910.



What is an Environmental Information Volume?

An Environmental Information Volume describes the proposed project, alternatives to the proposed project, the existing environment at the project location(s), and the potential environmental impacts from the project. OCED will provide guidance on what information is required for submission. When an EIV is required for a selected project, the award recipient must submit the document to their cognizant Grants and Agreements Officer.

What is the Environmental Information Volume used for?

The information in the Environmental Information Volume informs OCED's independent NEPA analysis of the potential environmental impacts associated with a project. OCED will likely require additional information, beyond the EIV, to complete the NEPA review process.

When is the Environmental Information Volume required?

The award recipient completes an Environmental Information Volume during Phase 1 of the project. The information in the EIV is used during OCED's Phase 2 NEPA review before the project can advance to Phase 3's construction activities. Completion of all NEPA-related activities is a required component of Phase 2 to 3 Go/No-Go decision metrics.

What should the Environmental Information Volume include?

This Environmental Information Volume provides, in detail, all information outlined in the EIV Template. Please note that additional information will likely be required to complete the NEPA review process. The cognizant Grants and Agreements Officer will reach out as necessary to obtain the supplementary materials.

[Link to EIV Template and EIV Guidance \(coming soon\).](#)