Did You Ever Know That You're My HEROS? And Other HUD Environmental Topics

EASTERN LENDERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 12, 2019

LOVE FUNDING

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Unacceptable Noise Levels

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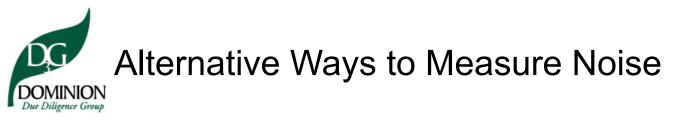


What are options when noise levels are over 75 dB?

- If the project involves new construction or conversion to residential use:
 - An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required, or
 - An EIS waiver can be requested.
- If the project involves substantial rehabilitation:
 - HUD strongly encourages conversion of noise-exposed sites to land uses compatible with high noise levels. Consider converting this property (or the impacted buildings) to a non residential use compatible with high noise levels.
 - However, so long as the project is marketable, the interior noise levels will need to be demonstrated to be below 45 dB (through STC calculations).



- In order for a project to qualify for an EIS waiver, the following conditions must be met:
 - There can be no other unresolved environmental issues associated with the site (i.e. site contamination, wetlands, floodplain, etc.)
 - The interior noise levels must be below 45 dB (demonstrated through STC calculations)
 - No exterior amenities can have unmitigated noise levels above 65 dB
- Typical timing on the EIS waiver is at least 4 months.
 - This allows the Regional HUD office and CPD enough time to review the submittal for accuracy and compliance.



- The parameters of any on-site measurements would need to be approved by HUD beforehand so that the data collected portrays what is needed. The Regional HUD Office will need to set these terms and may seek the advice of CPD.
- HUD may allow on-site measurements to better characterize the noise levels at a site; however, the HUD calculations will still define the acceptability category of the site.
- On-site measurements may be appropriate when a nontraditional noise source is present that is not able to be characterized with the typical HUD calculations (i.e. rail yard, vicinity racetrack, vicinity industrial facility).
- Noise levels would typically be measured for at least a 24-hour period utilizing a Level A Sound Meter. There may be multiple locations that require evaluation and several days may be required.

HUD Floodplain & Wetlands Regulations

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HUD Floodplain & Wetlands Regulations



Lumberton, N.C. September 2018

24 CFR Part 55 – Floodplain Management & Protection of Wetlands

- Implements Executive Order 11988 for Floodplain Management
- Implements Executive Order 11990 for Protection of Wetlands

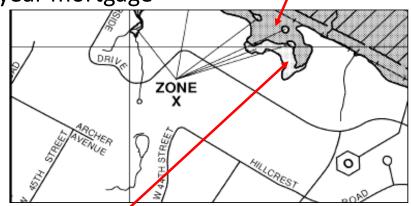


The Basics of Floodplain Regulations

100-year floodplain (§ 55.2(b)(9))

Areas with a 1% chance of flooding each year *if* maps are functioning perfectly

- 26% chance over a 30-year mortgage



500-year floodplain (§ 55.2(b)(4))

Areas with 0.2% annual chance of flooding (6% chance over a thirty-year mortgage)



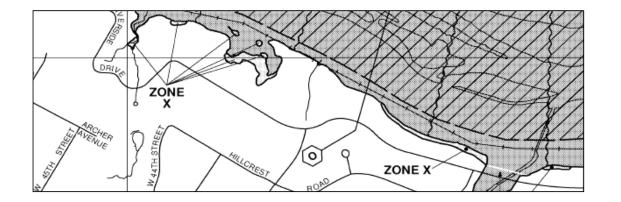
Floodway

Floodway (§ 55.2(b)(5))

 The portion of the floodplain which is effective in carrying flow, where the flood hazard is generally the greatest, and where water depths and velocities are the highest.

<u>No HUD assistance</u> may be approved for use in a floodway, except:

- Functionally dependent uses
 - Housing is <u>NEVER</u> a functionally dependent use

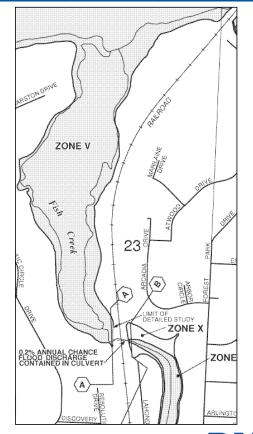




Coastal High Hazard Area

Coastal High Hazard Area (§ 55.2(b)(1))

- The area subject to high velocity waters, including hurricane wave wash and tsunamis
- FEMA designated as Zone V
- **STOP** Critical Actions and New Construction are not allowed
- Any activities must be designed for location in a Coastal High Hazard Area under §55.1(c)(3)





Critical Actions

Critical Action (§ 55.2(b)(3))

- Any activity for which even a slight chance of flooding would be too great, because such flooding might result in loss of life, injury to persons, or damage to property
- Examples:
 - Utilities, roadways providing sole egress from floodprone areas
 - Hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living
 - All § 232 and § 242 projects
 - But Not housing for independent living for the elderly

Critical actions **shall not** be approved in floodways or coastal high hazard areas



The Basics of Floodplain Regulations

A = AVOID

- Floodways
- Coastal high hazard areas

B = **BEWARE**

- 223(f) improvements + SFHA = Abbreviated 8-Step Process
- 221(d)(4) new construction + SFHA = 8-Step Process







The Basics of Floodplain Regulations

C = CAUTION

- Check for preliminary FEMA FIRMs
- Critical action sites require action in Flood Zone X, SHADED

D = **DISCOURAGE**

- New construction/major improvements in 100year floodplain
- Projects with lowest floor, life support facilities or ingress/egress > 12" below BFE





Floodplain – Preliminary FIRMS

Effective (current) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel # 3604970379**F**



Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel # 3604970379G



100-year floodplain





Floodplain Regulations

The Basics of Floodplain Regulations:

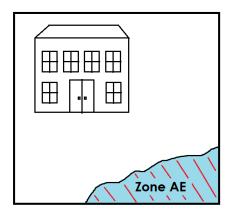
E = EXCEPTIONS

- Proposed activities do not occupy or modify the floodplain;
- Provisions are made for site drainage that would not have an adverse effect on any wetland; and
- A permanent covenant or comparable restriction is placed on the property's continued use to preserve the floodplain or wetland

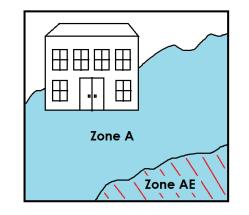




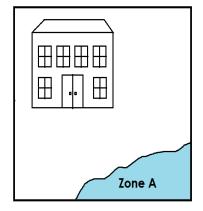
Incidental Portion of Floodplains



 Project may proceed *IF* all conditions in § 55.12(c)(7) are met

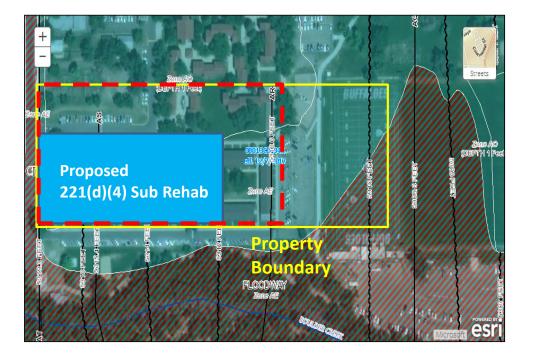


 Project cannot use the 8-Step Process and <u>will</u> be rejected

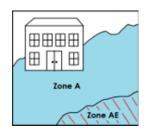


- Project may proceed either:
 - By meeting conditions in § 55.12(c)(7), OR
 - By completing
 Abbreviated 8 Step Process

Scenario: Incidental Portion?



Project NOT ALLOWED



Property boundary includes Floodplain (SFHA), and existing improvements (parking) in Floodway.



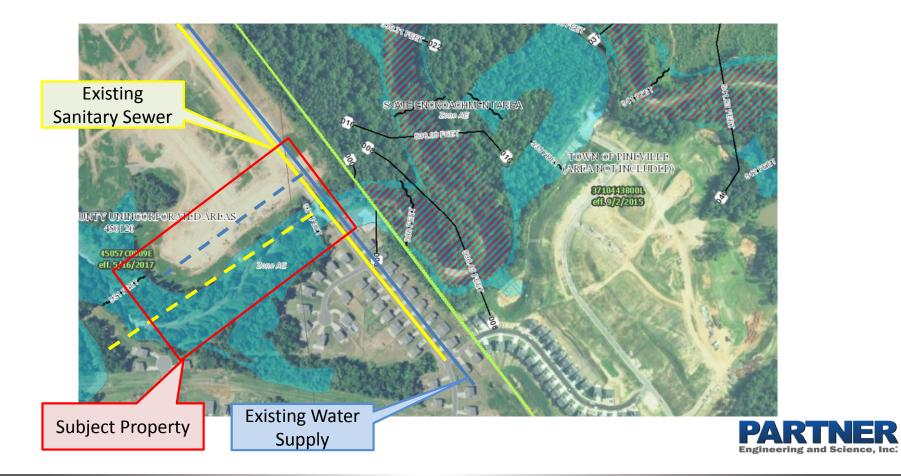
Part 55 Requirements

Projects located in a floodplain must be processed under §55.20 ("The 8-Step Process") unless an exception applies to the project type

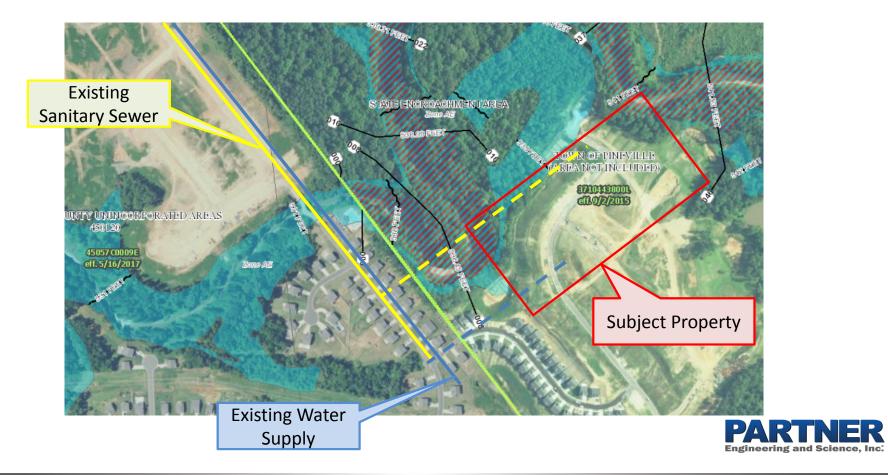
	Type of proposed action					
Type of proposed action (new reviewable action or an amendment) ¹	Floodways		Wetlands or 100-year floodplain outside coastal high hazard area and floodways			
Critical Actions as defined in §55.12(b)(2)	Critical actions not allowed.		proposed	Allowed if the proposed critical action is processed under §55.20. ²		
actions not excluded under	the proposed non-critical action is a functionally dependent use	existing construction (including improvements), or (3) reconstruction following destruction caused by a disaster. If the action is not a functionally dependent use, the action must be designed for location in a Coastal High Hazard	proposed noncritical	Any noncritical action is allowed without processing under this part.		



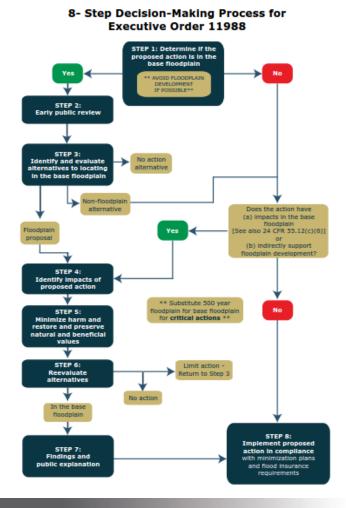
Utilities



Utilities



Floodplain Regulations – 223f



"5-Step" does not include:

- Step 2
- Step 3
- Step 7





Exceptions to Part 55



Broad Channel Queens, NY February 2016

- §55.12(a) → activities that are not required to complete the full 8-Step Process, and may instead complete the Modified 5-Step Process
 - Steps 2, 3, and 7 do not apply to these activities
- §55.12(b) → activities that are not required to complete the 8-Step Process
- §55.12(c) → activities that are not required to comply with Part 55





CliffsNotes on FLOODPLAIN

Floodplain									
HUD Program	Requirements/Guidance	Action needed?	Concerns		Solutions"				
Tiob Trogram	Trequirementsi Guidance	Action needed:	Floodplain	Floodways	Solutions				
223f 223f-Hea ry	MAP Guide, dated January 29, 2016, Section 9.5 (E) Executive Order 11988	No, if subject property is located within Flood Zone X, Shaded and Unshaded Yes, if subject property is located within Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (Zone A, AE, AO, etc)	Do Capital Expenditures impact floodplain areas? Does a SFHA encroach on any onsite improvements? Yes SFHA: Are life support facilities or ingress/egress more than 12-inches below the 100-year floodplain (SHFA)?	Floodways within improvements - NOT ALLOWED Do floodways hinder ingress or egress (verify on and offsite)	No SFHAs: No action warranted Yes SFHAs, not within improvements: Incidential exception applies, no action warranted Yes SFHAs, within improvements: 5-Step Decision Process warranted				
221(d)(4) - Substantial Rehabilitation 221(d)(4) - New Construction	CFR, 24 CFR 50.4(b)(c), 5 and 8-Step Processes Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), FEMA Flood Map Service Center	No, if subject property is located within Flood Zone X, Shaded and Unshaded Yes, if subject property is located within Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (Zone A, AE, AO, etc)	Does Scope of Work include ground disturbance, new construction that will impact floodplain areas? Does a SFHA encroach on any onsite improvements? Yes SFHA: Are life support facilities or ingress/egress more than 12-inches below the 100-year floodplain (SHFA)?	- NOT ALLOWED Do floodways hinder ingress or egress (verify on and offsite)	No SFHAs: No action warranted Yes SFHAs, not within improvements: Incidential exception applies, no action warranted Yes SFHAs, within improvements: 5-Step Decision-Making Process warranted or Yes SFHAs, within ground disturbance / new construction area: 8-Step Decision-Making Process warranted				
LEAN	LEAN Guidelines , dated January 12, 2017 (Effective date January 13, 2017), Section 7.5	No, if subject property is located within Flood Zone X. Unshaded Yes, if subject property is located within Flood Zone X, Shaded and Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (Zone A, AE, AO, etc)	Do Capital Expenditures impact floodplain areas? Does a SFHA encroach on any onsite improvements? Yes SFHA: Are life support facilities or ingress/egress more than 12-inches below the 100-year floodplain (SHFA)?	Floodways within improvements - NOT ALLOWED Do floodways hinder ingress or egress (verify on and offsite)	No SFHAs or Flood Zone X, Shaded: No action warranted Yes SFHAs and/or Flood Zone X, Shaded: Flood Determination warranted Yes SFHAs and/or Flood Zone X, Shaded, not within improvements: Flood Determination warranted and Incidential exception applies Yes SFHAs, within improvements: Flood Determination and 5-Step Decision-Making Process or Yes SFHAs, within ground disturbance / new construction area: 8-Step Decision-Making Process warranted				

*Flood insurance warranted for any building within SFHA.

WETLANDS









WETLANDS

Cowardin Wetland Definition

Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water.

Wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes:

- 1. Land supports predominantly hydrophytes
- 2. Substrate is undrained hydric soil, and
- 3. Substrate is non-soil and is saturated of with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season each year

Bannet Carte Spillway, Jefferson Parish, LA PARTNER

WETLANDS

Suspect a wetland?





The Basics of Wetland Regulations

A = AVOID

- Long term/short term adverse impacts
- Direct or indirect impact

B = **BEWARE**

- 223(f) improvements + wetland = Restrictive Covenant
- 221(d)(4) new construction + wetland = 8-Step Process along with wetland survey







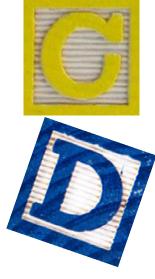
The Basics of Wetland Regulations

C = CAUTION

- Only in rare cases will rehab, purchase and refinancing be permitted to involve wetlands impacts.
- Functions and Values needed for 8-Step

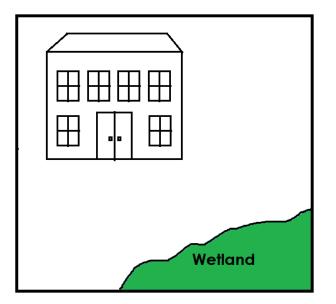
D = **DISCOURAGE**

- New construction/major improvements in wetland
- Compensatory mitigation may not be substitute for the requirement to avoid and minimize impact





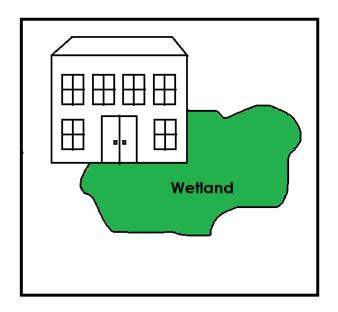
Wetlands



New Construction? **Yes** New Construction in a wetland? **No**

- Project may proceed w/out an 8step if:
 - no construction or landscaping activities in the wetland
 - appropriate provision made for site drainage that will not have an adverse effect on the wetland and
 - a permanent covenant or comparable restriction placed on property to preserve the wetland

Wetlands



New Construction? **Yes** New Construction in wetland? **Yes**

- Project may Proceed if:
 - Avoid wetland, or
 - HUD determines no practicable alternative via 8-step process *
 - * Individual 404 permit can replace steps 1-5 of 8-step but only if no construction in floodplain

Wetland

USACE Permits

- A USACE Nationwide Permit is applicable for impact to waters of the United States up to 1/2 acre or 300 linear feet of wetland or stream
- A USACE Individual Permit is applicable for impact to waters of the United States over 1/2 acre or 300 linear feet





The Basics of Floodplain Regulations

E = **Exception**

8-step process for wetlands that are permitted, Individually-permitted 404 sites, the first 5 steps can be eliminated (24 CFR 55.28)





Utilities





Condition Approved	Condition Denied
Wetland: completed 8-step	Wetland: 8-step will be
analysis & decision requires	conducted as condition of
Best Management Practices	the FIRM.
for soil erosion during	
construction.	8-step is a decision-making
	process and must be
Condition must be in FIRM	complete prior to HUD
agreement and construction	issuing a FIRM.
documents.	

HUD's Take

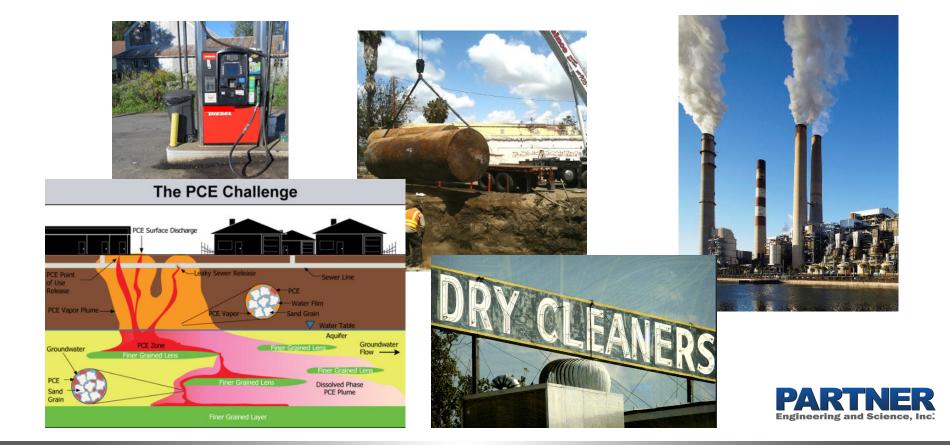
- •Q: When in the process will the Northeast Region evaluate/review my draft 8-step and/or draft notices for publication?
- •A: HUD may provide consultation review on an 8-step process prior to the Lender's submission of the Pre- or Firm Application, if needed.
 - Email <u>Stacey.L.Ashmore@hud.gov</u> and copy <u>Northeast.Production@hud.gov</u> with your inquiry.
 - Be sure to attach the draft or final Phase I (10MB or less may need to be a compressed file) and the draft 8-step documents in question.

•If the Pre Application or Firm Application has already been submitted to HUD, communicate directly with the HUD Environmental Reviewer (Consult the MAP Lender if needed).

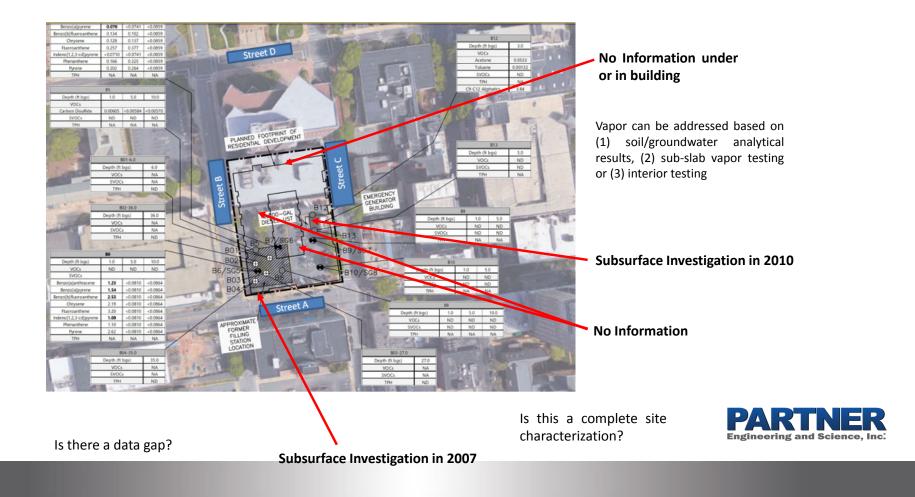
₩etland				
HUD Program	Requirements/Guidance	Is Survey Needed?	Concerns	Solutions
223f		No, if no wetland disturbance	Do Capital Expenditures impact wetland areas?	No wetland impact, no action warranted
223f-Heavy		No, if no wetland disturbance	Scope of Work may indicate impaot to wetland areas	No wetland impact, no action warranted Yes wetland, no impact: If incidential exception applies, restrictive covenant warranted Yes wetland impact: - Wetland survey warranted to verify boundary; - Avoidance recommended; - 8-Step Decision-Making Process may be warranted, and/or - Restrictive covenant or comparable restriction for life of property
221(d)(4) - Substantial Rehabilitation	MAP Guide, dated January 29, 2016, Section 3.5 (F) Executive Order 11990 CFR, 24 CFR; 50.4(b)(c), 5 and 8-Step Processes U.S. Fish & ∀ildlife Service, online mapper	No, if no wetland disturbance	Scope of Work may indicate impact to wetland areas	No wetland impact, no action warranted Yes wetland, no impact: If incidential exception applies, restrictive covenant warranted Yes wetland impact: - Wetland survey warranted to verify boundary; - Avoidance recommended; - 8-Step Decision-Making Process may be warranted; and/or - Restrictive covenant or comparable restriction for life of property
221(d)(4) - New Construction		No, if no wetland disturbance	Scope of Work may indicate impaot to wetland areas	No wetland impact, no action warranted Yes wetland, no impact: If incidential exception applies, restrictive covenant warranted Yes wetland impact: - Vetland survey warranted to verify boundary; - Avoidance recommended; - 8-Step Decision-Making Process may be warranted; and/or - Restrictive covenant or comparable restriction for life of property
	•	Wetland	•	•
HUD Program	Requirements/Guidance	Is Survey Needed?	Concerns	Solutions
LEAN	LEAN Guidelines, dated January 12, 2017 (Effective date January 19, 2017), Section 7.5	No, if no wetland disturbance	Do Capital Expenditures impact wetland areas?	Same as 223f and 221(d)(4) if wetland identified; Wetlands present, regardless of impact, - Restrictive covenant or comparable restriction for life of property

Engineering and Science, Inc.

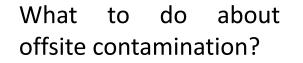
Contamination Analysis



Contamination Analysis



Contamination Analysis



G. Off-site Contamination.

Single Family Residential

If the Phase I and/or Phase II ESA determine that the existence of off-site contamination presents a risk to the site of the project and the enoneor has no control over the off-site locations of the If the Phase I and/or Phase II ESA determine that the existence of off-site contamination presents a risk to the site or the residents of the project and the sponsor has no control over the off-site locations of the contamination the site is not accontable unless such off site contamination is subject to a DDCA meatine the site of the requirements of the project and the sponsor has no control over the off-site locations of the meeting of the requirements of Sections 0.3 C and F Per Chapter 9 in the MAP Guide,



KEY: Subject Property 🖊

all of the requirements of Sections 9.3.C and E.

The Basics of Contamination Analysis

A = AVOID

- Site has no control over the off-site contamination
- Sites over formed solid waste landfill/dump or Superfund (National Priorities Listing)



B = **BEWARE**

- Make sure there are no data gaps in subsurface work
- The total nature and distribution of the identified contamination along with exposure pathways and potential receptors is warranted





The Basics of Contamination Analysis

C = CAUTION

- Phase II submitted with pre-application or Firm Commitment
- Elevated levels of contaminants confirmed then a complete site characterization required

D = **DISCOURAGE**

- Monitoring well for off-site contamination requires Engineering or Institutional Controls put in place
- Non-operating wells must be capped and closed







The Basics of Contamination Analysis

E is for....

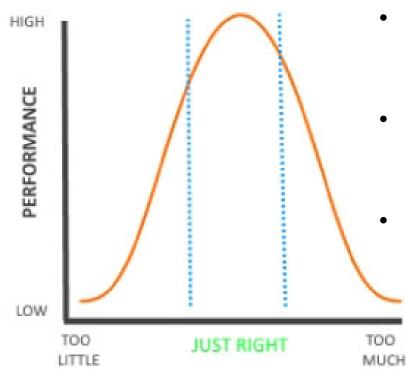
- Escrow
- MAP Guide, Chapter 9.3, Section E, Incomplete Removal of Contamination





Condition Approved	Condition Denied
Toxic Hazards: site	Toxic Hazards: unapproved
remediation will take place	or incomplete remediation
during construction;	plans.
remediation plan approved	
by the state.	See MAP Chapter 9 or 232
	Handbook Chapter 7.3 for
HUD needs hard numbers	more information.
on cost and an evaluation of	
worst case scenarios.	

'Goldilocks Principle'



- Most, if not all, states offer some sort of liability protection and official closure for environmental issues
- It is sound policy for a regulating entity to offer completeness assurances and liability protections for environmental investigation and cleanups.
- An NFA, or its equivalent, represents a win-win for both the environment and progress





- Nomenclature, and associated acronyms, vary.
- Some states may not offer an official closure letter.
- The program within the agency can matter.
- Not all NFAs are equal.



• The available product may depend on the transactional party.

Rest assured, there is very likely a means to a liability protection end.



HUD's Take

•Q: What happens in situations in which a NFA cannot be obtained because the state does not issue NFA letters?

•A: No Further Action Letters: If a state does not issue a formal NFA letter, a state-issued clearance letter must be submitted for HUD's consideration.

HUD's Take

Q: I've noticed Firm Commitment for my deals involving contamination have a special condition requiring "cost cap and reopener insurance". What does this mean?

Cleanup Cost-Cap or Stop-Loss Coverage: places an upper limit on the costs of cleanup which site redevelopers may have to pay Re-opener or Regulatory Action Coverage: costs associated with any future government actions that require further site cleanup, including the costs associated with loss of use of the improvements on the site.

2016 MAP Guide Section 9.3.C.10:

Unless HUD determines otherwise, Remediation Contract Insurance shall be required to include cost cap and reopener insurance coverages and be included in the remediation plan.

HEROS

HUD's Take: HEROS Preparation – Partner Worksheets



The Consultant compiles the HEROs Partner Worksheets and supporting maps and provides these to the Lender.

https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4707/environmentalreview-record-related-federal-laws-and-authorities-worksheets/



The Worksheets are submitted by the Lender as part of the overall FHA Pre Application (for two-stage processing) or Firm Application (for 1-stage processing) for review and use by HUD.

HUD's Take: HEROS Preparation – Partner Worksheets



1. The Consultant-created HEROs file is the preferred method of delivering HEROS data to HUD. It reduces the HEROs component of HUD's review time <u>by at least half.</u>



2. The Consultant will initiate the HEROs file by inputting all necessary data and attaching all supporting maps and exhibits.



3. The Consultant will then generate the Word-document data extract for the Lender. This also notifies the Lender of the system-generated "ER-ID".

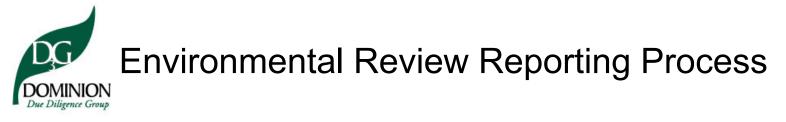


4. The Consultant shall then "Assign" the HEROs product to HUD at: <u>Wendy.Santiago@hud.gov</u>.

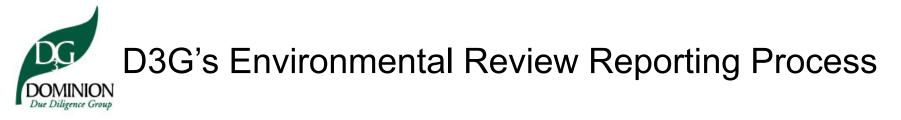


HUD's Take: ER ID and Generation of the ERR

_								Ļ		
	Name of Project	≎ City ≎	State O	Status 🗢	Level of Review \$	Last Updated * MM/DD/YYYY	Assigned To 🗢	ER ID \$	EDD	Cancel P or eopen
	My Home Plac	Germantown	MD	Completed	CEST	Thu Feb 07 11:43:37 EST 2019	Christina Garaffa	9000	•	Parl
	123 Terrace	Newark	NJ	Completed, conditioned on mitigation	CEST	Thu Aug 16 10:21:51 EDT 2018	Christina Garaffa	90000	8	Part
	XYZ Houses	New York	NY	Completed, conditioned on mitigation	CEST	Fri Nov 04 18:18:15 EDT 2016	Christina Garaffa	9000	•	Part
	ABC Homes	New York	NY	Completed	CEST	Wed Nov 02 18:55:32 EDT 2016	Christina Garaffa	9000		Part
	Edit sele	cted environmental re	view Edit 70	15.16 - Authority t	o Use Grant Funds	View selected environment	tal review Assig	n Review View	Assignment H	listory



- There is still no formal requirement to generate Environmental Reviews in the HEROS platform.
- Consultants should still be utilizing HEROS worksheets:
 - HEROS-compatible worksheets provide the full narrative view of the actual HEROS platform, where the HEROS Partner worksheets limit the narrative to Partner-specific fields
 - <u>https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4707/environmental-review-record-related-federal-laws-and-authorities-worksheets/</u>
 - Utilizing the HEROS-compatible worksheets helps streamline the lender review once the Environmental Review is input into HEROS.

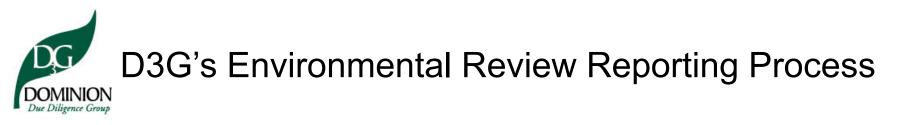


- D3G provides the Environmental Review outside of the HEROS platform, prior to HUD submittal, utilizing HEROS-compatible worksheets.
 - Most lenders still do not have HEROS access, so operating in HEROS during initial reporting creates limitations.
 - This allows lenders and consultants to work through projectspecific issues in the traditional reporting format, rather than being locked down to HEROS functionality.
 - Utilizing HEROS-compatible worksheets should help streamline the lender review once the Environmental Review is input into HEROS.

HUD's Take

Q: Is there any update on getting lenders access to HEROS?

- A: Lender Access to HEROS:
 - There is no firm timetable on when the Lender Access glitch will be addressed.
 - When Lenders are granted access, it will be "read only." Lenders would be able to "Assign" a review to a Consultant and HUD Staff only.



- Prior to HUD submission, the lender advises D3G to input the Environmental Review into HEROS, which requires a few additional data points:
 - FHA Number * HUP Funding Sources for which this review will fully be environmental review requirements. Do not include funding sources that will require a separate individue only funding sources for which this review will fully be environmental review requirements. Do not include funding sources that will require a separate individue only funding sources for which this review will fully be environmental review requirements. Do not include funding sources that will require a separate individue only funding sources for which this review will fully be environmental review requirements. Do not include funding sources that will require a separate individue only funding sources that will require a separate individue only funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project individue funding sources that will require the environmental review (e.g. if this project receives funding individue funding sources that will require the environmental review (e.g. if this project receives funding individue funding sources that will require the environmental review (e.g. if this project receives funding individue funding

* HUD Preparer Information				
Name:				



- HUD created "Using HEROS as an FHA Partner" as a guidance document for the HEROS input process:
 - <u>https://www.hudexchange.info/course-content/using-heros-for-multifamily-fha-partners/Using-HEROS-as-an-FHA-Partner.pdf</u>

Using HEROS as an FHA Partner

The purpose of this document is to provide instructions to consultants and lenders assisting with environmental reviews for Multifamily FHA-insured projects. Consultants will have full access to HEROS. Lenders will have read-only access.

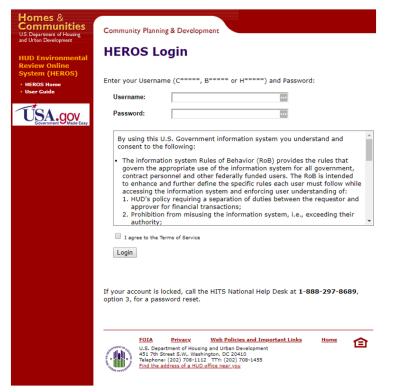
Getting Started

For basic information on using HEROS, including instructional videos and frequently asked questions, go to https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/heros/. Technical questions about HEROS should go to Ask A Question at https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/heros/. Technical questions about HEROS should go to Ask A Question at https://www.hudexchange.info/get-assistance/my-question/. Project-specific or environmental review questions should go to the assigned underwriter or appraiser. If not known, contact the Technical Branch Chief or the Housing Program Environmental Specialist (PES) for the office or region where your project is located.

Note that the partner's portion of the environmental review should be in HEROS and assigned to HUD by the FIRM application submission. For lenders that use the pre-application process for new construction or substantial rehabilitation proposals, HUD requires the environmental review to be in HEROS and assigned to HUD at pre-application, unless otherwise indicated.











• Once logged in, and the Environmental Review is initially created, the following tabs will define the remainder of the HEROS input process:

· Initial Canada	1105 – Initial Screen (50/58 - Non-Tiered)							
 Initial Screen 	Environmental Review Record created on February 25, 2	019 by Keith Bayer.						
	* Indicates that field is required							
	* Project Name: 0							
	* HUD Funding Source: Include only funding sources for which this review will fulfill HUD's environmental review requirements. Do not include funding sources that will require a separate environmental review (e.g. if this project receives funding from both Part 50 and Part 58 programs).							
	Grant/Project Identification Number		UD Program		Program Name			
		Select Program	•	Select Program	•			
	Add Another Funding Source							
	* Estimated Total HUD Funded, Assisted, or Insured	Amount(\$): \$						
	* Estimated Total Project Cost: \$ This may be the same as the total HUD-funded, assisted							
	 Does this project anticipate the use of funds or as No 	sistance from another Federal agency in add	tion to HUD?					
Note "Yes" triggers ECO	◯ Yes							
Note its triggers Leo	 Does this project involve over 200 lots, dwelling u No No 	nits, or beds?						
involvement	Yes (Consult early with the Environmental Clearance)	nce Officer (ECO), who is required to sign off on	this project if it requires an Environmental Assessment).					
involvement	* Applicant/Grant Recipient Information							
	Search 🖲 Other							
	Name of Organization:							
	Name of Point of Contact:							
	* HUD Preparer Information							
	Name:							
	Consultant Information Complete this section only if you represent a consult.	ant firm or other contractor assisting with the envi	ronmental review.					
	Name of Consulting Firm:							
	Name of Point of Contact:							
	Cancel		Save and Continue					



• Project Summary

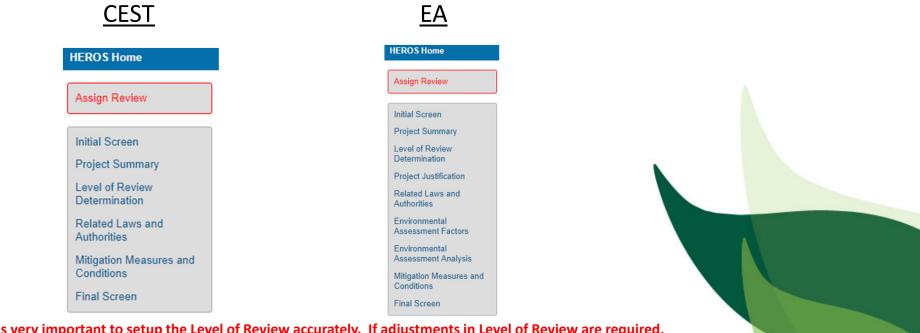
ſ	* What activities are involved in the project? (Check all that apply.)	
Helps define the Level — of Review	Acquisition (including refinance) of real property Leasing • Maintenance • Repair/Improvement/Rehabilitation New construction/Reconstruction Demolition Disposition Removal of architectural barriers Soft Costs • or other non-physical activities (e.g. planning, services, administration, predevelopment costs) * Will the project require or lead to a change in land use of the affected property (e.g. from non-residential to residential, commercial to industrial, or from one industrial use to another)? Yes No	
	What is the planned use of the affected property (after completion of the project)? Vacant land Public facility Nonresidential building(s) Residential building(s) Save and Go Back Save and Continue Save	



 Level of Review 	Categorical exclusion subject to the Federal laws and authorities cited in 24 CFR 50.4 (CEST)
	Select appropriate citation(s) from <u>24 CFR 50.20(a)</u> : (Check all that apply) Special projects directed to the removal of material and architectural barriers that restrict the mobility of accessibility to elderly and persons with disabilities. 24 CFR 50.20(a)(1) Rehabilitation of buildings and improvements when the following conditions are met:
Substantial Rehabilitation	In the case of a building for residential use (with one to four units), the density is not increased beyond four units, the land use is not changed, and the footprint of the building is not increased in a floodplain or in a wetland. 24 CFR 50.20(a)(2)(i) In the case of multifamily residential buildings: (A) Unit density is not changed more than 20 percent; (B) The project does not involve a change in land use from residential to non-residential; and (C) The estimated cost of rehabilitation is less than 75
Thresholds	 percent of the total estimated cost of replacement after rehabilitation. 24 CFR 50.20(a)(2)(ii) In the case of non-residential structures, including commercial, industrial, and public buildings: (A) The facilities and improvements are in place and will not be changed in size nor capacity by more than 20 percent; and (B) The activity does not involve a change in land use, such as from non-residential to residential, commercial to industrial, or from one industrial use to another. 24 CFR 50.20(a)(2)(iii)
	An individual action (not including rehabilitation) on up to four dwelling units where there is a maximum of four units on any one site. The units can be four one-unit buildings or one four-unit building or any combination in between. 24 CFR 50.20(a)(3)(i)
	An individual action (not including rehabilitation) on a project of five or more housing units developed on scattered sites when the sites are more than 2,000 feet apart and there are not more than four housing units on any one site. 24 CFR 50.20(a)(3)(ii)
	Acquisition (including leasing) or disposition of, or equity loans on an existing structure, or acquisition (including leasing) of vacant land provided that the structure or land acquired, financed, or disposed of will be retained for the same use. 24 CFR 50.20(a)(4)
Refinance	Purchased or refinanced housing and medical facilities under section 223(f) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715n). 24 CFR 50.20(a)(5)
	Mortgage prepayments or plans of action (including incentives) under 24 CFR part 248. 24 CFR 50.20(a)(6)
New Construction	Environmental Assessment (EA)
Substantial Rehabilitation	This activity requires an EA if no categorical exclusions or exemptions apply. An EA may also be required if extraordinary circumstances apply. This activity requires an EA if no categorical exclusions or exemptions apply. An EA may also be required if extraordinary circumstances apply. This activity requires an EA if no categorical exclusions or exemptions apply. An EA may also be required if extraordinary circumstances apply. This activity requires an EA if no categorical exclusions or exemptions apply. An EA may also be required if extraordinary circumstances apply. This activity requires an EA due to extraordinary circumstances, check here
	Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
	If project has been elevated to an EIS due to extraordinary circumstances, check here
	Save and Go Back Save and Continue



• The remaining HEROS screens will be generated, depending on the Level of Review assigned to the Environmental Review:



It is very important to setup the Level of Review accurately. If adjustments in Level of Review are required, any data input in the subsequent screens will be erased.



- If the consultant utilized HEROS-compatible worksheets, the HEROS input process should be a true data transfer from the worksheets into the corresponding HEROS Related Federal Laws and Authorities screens, which will feed the Compliance Determinations:
- Consultants are not allowed to mark whether formal compliance steps or mitigation are required:

Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required? Only Responsible Entity (for Part 58) or HUD (for Part 50) Users may respond to this question. Ensure that this question is complete before finalizing the review. Yes No

• Completed as part of HUD's review process

005 – Related Federal Laws and Authorities Sum Directions: Click on the Compliance Factor links in the first answer questions and provide documentation on the specifi you will automatically return to this screen to continue.	column in	the char			
Compliance Factors		rmal co mitigati			Compliance Determination
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND	REGULA	TIONS	ISTED	AT 24 CFR	50.4 & 58.6
Airport Hazards [Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D]	0	Yes	0	No	
Coastal Barrier Resources [Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]]	0	Yes	0	No	
Flood Insurance [Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]]	0	Yes	0	No	
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND	REGULA	TIONS	ISTED	AT 24 CFR	50.4 & 58.5
Air Quality [Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93]	0	Yes	0	No	
Coastal Zone Management [Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)]	\odot	Yes		No	
Contamination and Toxic Substances - Multifamily and Nonresidential Properties [24 CFR 50:3() & 58:5(i)(2)] (HUD Standard)	0	Yes	0	No	
Endangered Species [Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402]	0	Yes		No	
Explosive and Flammable Hazards (Above-Ground Tanks)[24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C]	0	Yes	0	No	
Farmlands Protection [Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) & 1541; 7 CFR Part 658]	0	Yes	\bigcirc	No	
Floodplain Management [Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55]	0	Yes	0	No	
Historic Preservation [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 & 110; 36 CFR Part 800]	0	Yes	0	No	
Noise Abatement and Control [Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B]	0	Yes	\bigcirc	No	
Sole Source Aquifers [Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149]	0	Yes		No	
Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 & 5]	0	Yes	0	No	
Wild and Scenic Rivers [Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) & (c)]	0	Yes		No	
HUD HOUSING ENV		NTAL ST	ANDAR	DS	
Housing Requirements [MAP Guide – Chapter 9: Lead-based paint, Radon, and Asbestos]	0	Yes	0	No	
ENVIRON		JUSTIC			
Environmental Justice [Executive Order 12898]	\bigcirc	Yes	0	No	
	Sav	Yes re and C	ontinue	No	





 Although consultants are not allowed to mark whether formal compliance steps or mitigation are required, they can provide suggestive formal compliance steps and/or mitigation measures, which will be generated in the Mitigation Measures and Conditions screen: 5000 - Mitigation Measures and Conditions (50/58)

) - Mitigation Measures and Conditions (50/58)	Project Name: TBD
Before proceeding with this screen, review to ensure that you ha neasures and conditions below are generated from information to it is important that all previous screens be finalized before co	provided in the Law and Authority and EA Factor screens,
eview the mitigation measures and conditions required of this	project below.
Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition
lo records found.	
Add Mitigation Measure or Condition Factor	
mitigation measures are required, you may continue to the nex igation Plan Explain how the above mitigation measures and conditions will be ca esponsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures ar	t page 0. Otherwise, describe the Mitigation Plan below. Irried out and monitored. Clearly identify both the persons d the timeframe in which they will be completed. These
insert additional mitigation measures or conditions not listed here, cl mitigation measures are required, you may continue to the nex igation Plan Explain how the above mitigation measures and conditions will be ca esponsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures ar measures and conditions must be incorporated into project contracts CFR 1505.2(c))	t page 0. Otherwise, describe the Mitigation Plan below. Irried out and monitored. Clearly identify both the persons d the timeframe in which they will be completed. These
mitigation measures are required, you may continue to the nex igation Plan Explain how the above mitigation measures and conditions will be co esponsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures an neasures and conditions must be incorporated into project contracts	t page 0. Otherwise, describe the Mitigation Plan below. Irried out and monitored. Clearly identify both the persons d the timeframe in which they will be completed. These





 Once the HEROS input process is complete, a read-only HEROSgenerated Word output can be produced via the Final HEROS Screen, which should be submitted to the lender:

6205 – Preparer Notification Screen (50/58)	Project Name: TBD	
As a Partner User, you cannot proceed past this point in the environmen (if Part 58) or HUD (if Part 50) Preparer to complete this review.	tal review. Please assign this review to the Responsible Entity	
Before assigning the review, you are encouraged to preview the environ required steps. Generate and review the preview of the environmental re ensure that all questions have complete and accurate responses and all left side of this screen to navigate through and edit the previous screens	eview record, using the button below, taking special care to supporting documentation. If necessary, use the menu on the	
Generate Preview of Environmental Review Record		
When you are satisfied with the review up to this point, reassign the env by selecting Assign Review in the side menu. You are strongly encourage awareness of the environmental review record.		
Go Back Save and E	xit	



- Once the HUD Preparer (ie, Appraiser, Underwriter, etc.) information is known, the consultant should utilize the Assign Review feature to assign the Environmental Review to HUD:
- Once assigned, HEROS will generate an email to the consultant and HUD Preparer

From: HEROS-no-reply@hud.gov <HEROS-no-reply@hud.gov> Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:15 AM To: Keith Bayer <k.bayer@d3g.com>; HUD Preparer <h.preparer@hud.gov> Subject: Environmental review is assigned to you

An environmental review, Multifamily-Apartments-, has been assigned to HUD Preparer in HEROS by Keith Bayer in City, State. If you are the assigned user, you may now edit this review, and it will now appear on your Environmental Reviews Dashboard. Go to <u>Dashboard</u>, and make sure to view the Dashboard with "Show reviews assigned to me"selected.

ssign Review		Project Name: TBD	
After you assign this before assign it to an		e able to edit it unless it is assigned back to you. Be sure you are done editing this review	
First Name	6		
Last Name			
Search Reset	Cancel		
	(1 of 1)		
Last Name 🗢	First Name Role Role	Organization	
No records found.			
	(1 of 1)	14 4 P> PI 10 V	
	Other users who have	ave previously been assigned to this review:	
	(1 of 1)	IN (N 1 P2 P1 10 V	
Last Name 🗢	First Name Role Role	Organization ≎ E-Mail ≎ City ≎ State ≎	
Bayer	Keith Partner	D3G k.bayer@d3g.com Mithlothian VA	
	(1 of 1)	14 <4 1 P2 P1 10 V	
Enter any comments	you have for the next assigned user here:		
	Assig	gn Cancel	

HUD Review Process

- •Lender Submits Application to HUD, with "ER ID" noted on the Application's "Cover Sheet" and also within the "Environmental" section of the Lender's Narrative.
- •HUD conducts Intake Review.
- •HUD Underwriter is assigned. Technical staff may also be assigned.
- •The HEROs file will be re-assigned to the HUD Reviewer.
 - Single Underwriter Model: HUD Underwriter reviews Environmental Reports and preliminarily approves HEROS.
 - Technical assistance: HUD Appraiser reviews Environmental Reports and preliminarily approves HEROs.
- •HEROs is escalated for final ECO and/or Housing supervisory approval.
- •The HUD Underwriter generates the ERR for the audit file. Remediation or mitigation requirements are noted on the Special Conditions to the Firm Commitment or the Firm Invitation Letter.
- •HUD notes compliance with remediation or mitigation requirements in HEROs once complete.





- Most mistakes with Environmental Reviews in HEROS consist of insufficient or lack of supporting documentation.
 - FEMA FIRM provided w/o property boundaries delineated:



• In addition, HUD will want to also see a survey depicting floodplain areas.



- Only on-site wetland impacts identified, when off-site impacts also need to be evaluated.
 - Site plans should include off-site impacts from connecting utilities, stormwater management features, etc.
- Noise survey defaults to nearby traffic studies, estimating percentages, rather than obtaining more accurate counts.
 - Contact the municipality to obtain more accurate counts, as opposed to simply utilizing readily available online information.
- Noise surveys not providing appropriate projections.
 - For example, if the nearby interstate is expanding, which should be completed within 12 years, HUD will want to see projects further out than 10 years.
- In addition to the regulatory requirements outlined in HEROS, the MAP Guide requires HUD to substantively evaluate the risk associated with proximity to hazardous facilities for projects to be purchased or refinanced.
 - This requirement is not included on the Explosive and Flammable Hazards HEROS screen, but must be evaluated.

HUD's Take: Areas for Improvement

- •Fully-detailed description in the "Impact Evaluation" column of the "Environmental Assessment Factors" screen, such as:
 - Approximate distances between the Subject and amenities (Schools, parks, hospitals) rather than simply stating "nearby".
 - Approximate response time for emergency providers to the Subject site.
 - Level of medical facilities (Specialized trauma centers, Urgent Cares, General hospital care).
 - Well water / Septic / private trash disposal vs municipal services.

4010 - EA Factors – Summary (50/58)

Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 1508.27]

For more information: https://www.onecpd.info/environmental-review/environmental-assessment

Impact Codes: Choose from the following impact codes to document the impact for each factor. An impact code from the following list

- · (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor adverse Impact may require mitigation.
 (4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification and may require EIS

Directions:

The following chart is for the analysis of Environmental Assessment Factors

- Information for the Environmental Assessment Factor can be found on the Office of Environment and Energy Website, which is I
 The Impact Evaluation column is for impact analysis; for ALL Impact Codes record the qualitative and quantitative significance o
- The Impact Evaluation column is for impact analysis; for ALL Impact Codes record the qualitative and quantitative significance o
 applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Provide citations, including dates/names/littles of contacts, as appr
- Use the Mitigation column to explain in detail the exact measures that must be implemented to mitigate for the impact or /effect,
 At the bottom of the screen upload verifiable source documentation as referenced and described in support of each determination

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOPMENT		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	(2)	~ ~

Project Name:

HUD's Take: Areas for Improvement

- •Clear understanding of whether ground disturbance will be present due to nature of repairs on a 223(f) transaction.
 - o Wetlands and Floodplain impact.
 - Information given to Historic / Coastal Zone authorities must clearly outline this nature to the repair, as the State's determination may change.
- •2nd stage processing applications are missing Environmental reports.
 - Although the reports from the Pre-Application stage may still be applicable at the Firm Submission, the documents should be re-submitted to ensure a complete Firm Application file.



- Consultants are providing Environmental Reviews in a variety of reporting formats, since there is no formal requirement to generate Environmental Reviews in the HEROS platform.
 - In the meantime, consultants are completing the input to HEROS as requested by the lender.
 - This has created some issues at application submission, due to the lack of notification as to whether the consultant will handle the input to HEROS.
 - In some cases, HUD has completed the input to HEROS, only to find out that the consultant already started and/or completed the input.
 - HUD is working on providing SPOC's for each region, rather than waiting for the HUD Preparer (ie, Appraiser, Underwriter, etc.) to be assigned.
 - Lenders should provide a statement in the Lender Narrative specifically stating that the HEROS input will be completed by the consultant once the HUD Preparer is assigned.
- HUD is working on a fix to the lender HEROS access issue.
 - In the meantime, lender access is limited to a read-only HEROS-generated Word output with hyperlinks to supporting documentation throughout, which requires lenders to at least have HEROS access codes.

Environmental Updates



- HUD released the proposed rule "Conforming the Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD) Standards for Residential Propane Tanks to Industry" in December 2018.
 - The main takeaway is that the rule would allow HUD-assisted projects near stationary propane ASTs with a capacity of 250 gallons or less.
 - Heavy reliance on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 58 (Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code) (2017):
 - A voluntary consensus standard for public safety that establishes standards used by the propane industry and operators regarding storage, handling, transportation, and use of propane.
 - The comment period closed on February 8, 2019



- HUD recognizes that mitigation measures can be costly and limit choices for siting HUD-assisted projects.
 - Tank Burial:
 - Costly design, permitting, registration, and construction fees, especially in urban areas
 - Blast Wall:
 - Similarly, this route can be cost-prohibitive.
 - Typically very burdensome due to most propane ASTs being located off-site, greatly hindering the likelihood of an agreement between property owners.
- The comment period closed on February 8, 2019

Questions?

THANK YOU TO ALL OF TODAY'S PANELISTS!

CLIFFS NOTES MAP AND LEAN

for

Floodplain & Wetlands



		Wetland		
HUD Program	Requirements/Guidance	Action Needed?	Recommendations	Concerns
			Yes wetland, no impact: If incidential exception applies, restrictive covenant warranted	
223f	MAP Guide, dated January 29, 2016, Section 9.5 (F)	Yes	Yes wetland impact: - Wetland survey warranted to verify boundary; - Avoidance recommended; - 8-Step Decision-Making Process may be warranted; and/or - Restrictive covenant or comparable restriction for life of property	Do Capital Expenditures impact wetland areas?
	Executive Order 11990 CFR, 24 CFR 50.4(b)(c), 5 and 8-Step Processes	No	No wetland impact, no action warranted	
223f-Heavy	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, online mapper		Yes wetland, no impact: If incidential exception applies, restrictive covenant warranted	
		Yes	Yes wetland impact: - Wetland survey warranted to verify boundary; - Avoidance recommended; - 8-Step Decision-Making Process may be warranted; and/or - Restrictive covenant or comparable restriction for life of property	Scope of Work may indicate impact to wetland areas
		No	No wetland impact, no action warranted	
221(d)(4) - Substantial Rehabilitation		Yes	Yes wetland, no impact: If incidential exception applies, restrictive covenant warranted Yes wetland impact: - Wetland survey warranted to verify boundary;	Scope of Work may indicate
	MAP Guide, dated January 29, 2016, Section 9.5 (F)	165	 Avoidance recommended; 8-Step Decision-Making Process may be warranted; and/or Restrictive covenant or comparable restriction for life of property 	impact to wetland areas
	Executive Order 11990	No	No wetland impact, no action warranted Yes wetland, no impact: If incidential exception applies,	
221(d)(4) - New Construction	CFR, 24 CFR 50.4(b)(c), 5 and 8-Step Processes		restrictive covenant warranted	
	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, online mapper	Yes	Yes wetland impact: - Wetland survey warranted to verify boundary; - Avoidance recommended; - 8-Step Decision-Making Process may be warranted; and/or - Restrictive covenant or comparable restriction for life of property	Scope of Work may indicate impact to wetland areas
		No	No wetland impact, no action warranted	1



Wetland					
HUD Program	Requirements/Guidance	Action Needed?	Recommendations	Concerns	
LEAN	LEAN Guidelines, dated January 12, 2017 (Effective date January 19, 2017), Section 7.5	Yes	Regardless of impact, - Restrictive covenant or comparable restriction for life of property		
		No		Do Capital Expenditures impact wetland areas?	



	Floodplain					
HUD Program	Requirements/Guidance	Action needed?	Concerns		Solutions*	
100 Hogram			Floodplain	Floodways	3010110113	
223f 223f-Heavy	MAP Guide, dated January 29, 2016, Section 9.5 (E) Executive Order 11988 CFR, 24 CFR 50.4(b)(c), 5 and 8-Step Processes Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), FEMA Flood Map Service Center	No, if subject property is located within Flood Zone X, Shaded and Unshaded Yes, if subject property is located within Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (Zone A, AE, AO, etc)	Do Capital Expenditures impact floodplain areas? Does a SFHA encroach on any onsite improvements? Yes SFHA: Are life support facilities or ingress/egress more than 12-inches below the 100- year floodplain (SHFA)?	Floodways within improvements - NOT ALLOWED Do floodways hinder ingress or egress (verify on and offsite)	No SFHAs: No action warranted Yes SFHAs, not within improvements: Incidential exception applies, no action warranted Yes SFHAs, within improvements: 5-Step Decision Process warranted Yes SFHAs, Flood Insurance warranted for buidlings	
221(d)(4) - Substantial Rehabilitation 221(d)(4) - New Construction		No, if subject property is located within Flood Zone X, Shaded and Unshaded Yes, if subject property is located within Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (Zone A, AE, AO, etc)	Does Scope of Work include ground disturbance, new construction that will impact floodplain areas? Does a SFHA encroach on any onsite improvements? Yes SFHA: Are life support facilities or ingress/egress more than 12-inches below the 100- year floodplain (SHFA)?	Floodways within improvements - NOT ALLOWED Do floodways hinder ingress or egress (verify on and offsite)	No SFHAs: No action warranted Yes SFHAs, not within improvements: Incidential exception applies, no action warranted Yes SFHAs, within improvements: 5-Step Decision- Making Process warranted or Yes SFHAs, within ground disturbance / new construction area: 8-Step Decision-Making Process warranted	



Floodplain					
HUD Program	Requirements/Guidance	Action needed?	Concerns		Solutions*
			Floodplain	Floodways	
LEAN	LEAN Guidelines, dated January 12, 2017 (Effective date January 19, 2017), Section 7.5	No, if subject property is located within Flood Zone X Unshaded Yes, if subject property is located within Flood Zone X, Shaded and Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (Zone A, AE, AO, etc)		Floodways within improvements - NOT ALLOWED Do floodways hinder ingress or egress (verify on and offsite)	warranted Yes SFHAs and/or Flood Zone X, Shaded: Flood Determination warranted Yes SFHAs and/or Flood Zone X, Shaded, not within improvements: Flood Determination warranted and Incidential exception applies Yes, SFHAs, Flood Insuarance warranted Yes SFHAs, Flood Insuarance warranted Yes SFHAs, within improvements: Flood Determination and 5-Step Decision-Making Process or Yes SFHAs, within ground disturbance / new construction area: 8-Step Decision-Making Process warranted

