

10/27/2005
Per Rick Broadhead

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR USAID PRT QUICK IMPACT PROGRAM PROJECTS

The USAID Quick Impact Program, managed through the Provincial Reconstruction Teams and implemented by several implementing partners (IPs), has been assigned the following environmental controls:

1. Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c), a **Categorical Exclusion** has been approved for the provision of technical assistance, training, development of plans and policies, and procurement of equipment, unless these activities lead to actions which potentially have significant environmental impacts. Any QIP projects fitting these scope descriptions do not require an environmental assessment prior to conduct of work.
2. Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3 (a) (3), a **Negative Determination with Conditions** has been approved for the rehabilitation of buildings and other such structures. Where buildings exist and their repair will not constitute significant environmental impact, no further environmental review is required prior to conduct of work. The conditions refer to specific actions as incorporation of environmentally sound designs and procedures to mitigate potential environmental impacts and to implement best management practices (BMPs). Implementation of the Conditions will be monitored by the Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO).
3. Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3 (a) (2) (iii), a **Positive Threshold Decision** has been made for all activities which have potentially significant adverse environmental impacts. QIP provides funding for minor construction of roads, irrigation systems, bridge repair, new construction, and other such activities. These activities require evaluation to insure that there are no serious impacts on the environment and that mitigation of potential activities are performed as required. A Positive Determination requires an environmental assessment (EA) scoping statement to be approved by the USAID Asia and Near East's Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO), followed by a BEO-approved EA. Implementation of the mitigation measures of the EA will be monitored by the CTO.

This document provides guidelines for evaluation and mitigation procedures that will be applied to each activity as part of the designs of each project. As a general rule, USAID will require the IP that is responsible for the design and scope description of each project to perform an environmental screening in accordance with the following checklists. The IP shall employ persons trained in environmental and construction issues to recognize and determine environmental effects relative to each project to complete the checklists. The use of an environmental screening checklist, however, is not a substitute for a scoping statement for an EA or for an EA.

The environmental screening using the checklist appropriate for the class (Building Construction; Road Construction; Bridge Construction; Irrigation; Dams, and Water Projects; Airfield Construction) of work shall: 1) provide the basis for appropriate mitigation measures for small-scale construction and rehabilitation of buildings and other such structures on already developed land for activities associated with Negative Determinations with Conditions; and 2) will be useful as an information source for full discussion of significant environmental effects of the action for an environmental scoping statement and an EA for

activities associated with a Positive Determination. This includes alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse effects or enhance the quality of the environment so that the expected benefits of development objectives can be weighed against any adverse impacts upon the natural or physical environment or any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources. The IP shall collaborate with the Government of Afghanistan ministry that will be approving the project, both during the design and environmental screening process and at final approval. Ministry approval of the project shall specifically address the environmental screening as well. Attached to and inclusive in the screening when submitted to USAID for approval shall be a list of names and qualifications (education, experience, professional discipline) of the person(s) preparing the screening.

If the environmental screening determines that adverse but small-scale environmental effects may occur from the activity, a BMP Plan will be developed to mitigate environmental effects to the point where adverse effects will not occur. If the environmental screening determines that significant adverse environmental effects may occur from the activity, an EA scoping statement and an EA with a BMP Plan will be developed to mitigate adverse environmental effects to the point where significant effects will not occur. The environmental screening must be approved by the QIP Manager and the USAID-Afghanistan Mission Environmental Officer (MEO). If adverse small-scale environmental effects cannot be reasonably mitigated, or if significant environmental effects are potential, an EA shall be written in accordance with 22 CFR 216.3, 216.6 and 216.7. If an EA is required, the ANE BEO must review and approve the project prior to construction, after review and concurrence by the MEO.

EAs are usually prepared for individual projects at specific sites. However, an EA may be approved for the same activity or similar activities at multiple sites, or for various activities at the same or at multiple sites. Unless judged by the MEO to have minimal effects, the following classes of projects will require an EA, which must be approved by the ANE BEO:

1. Programs of river basin development that make significant changes to the river structure.
2. Irrigation or water management projects, including dams and impoundments.
3. Agricultural land leveling.
4. Drainage projects draining more than one acre of wetland.
5. Large scale agricultural mechanization.
6. Large size or significant construction projects on undeveloped land.
7. Resettlement projects.
8. Penetration road building or road improvement projects.
9. Power plants (other than repair of existing plants).
10. Industrial plants.
11. Potable water and sewage projects other than those that are small scale.

Activities for training, procurement, management, application, and disposal of natural or manufactured pesticides and other chemicals designed to kill plants or animals qualify for Negative Determination with Conditions. These activities must first receive a BEO-approved Integrated Pest Management Plan and a Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer User Application Plan as a Condition for the activity's Negative Determination with Conditions.

Environmental Screening Checklist Evaluation of Environmental Impacts:

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources an IP cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved. A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards.
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the IP has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EA is required.
4. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.
5. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The implementer must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
6. Earlier analyses may be used where an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EA or Negative Determination. In this case, a brief discussion should identify:
 - a. Earlier analysis used. Identify and state where it is available for review.
 - b. Impacts adequately addressed. Identify which effects from the checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
7. Implementers are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

Environmental Assessment Checklist for Building Construction

Project No. _____

Project Name: _____

Issue affecting environment:	Y/N	If yes, describe mitigating actions:
Will project degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings (aesthetics)?		
If demolition of existing facilities is required, are there hazardous materials to be disposed of? (Asbestos, mercury light bulbs or switches, tanks with chemical or fuel residue, CFC refrigerant coolants, lead-based paint, PCBs, radioactive, etc.)		
Is there any other pre-existing contamination on site (including petroleum products)?		
Is selected site in a wetland or flood plain?		
Are likely endangered species (plant or animal) on site?		
Is selected site on or near a cultural or archeological site?		
Will proposed construction require removal of vegetated areas or trees from site?		
Will building's use cause significant drawdown of local water table?		
Will stormwater runoff from site (paved areas, roof, etc.) increase compared to pre-construction levels?		
Will activities likely result in dust creation, debris/solid waste generation, soil erosion or the loss of topsoil during/after construction?		
Will stormwater runoff from site likely contain materials hazardous to the environment?		
Will excavation increase likelihood of landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, or instability affecting others?		
Will operation of completed facility generate any type of		

pollution? (Air emissions, hazardous waste, petroleum spill, noise, solid waste, etc.)		
Will sewage produced by future occupants be managed adequately to prevent contamination of groundwater?		
Will solid wastes produced by future occupants be managed adequately (i.e., landfilled)?		
Will materials used in construction create environmental damage in manufacture or installation?		
Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?		
Does the project propose to use biocides (pesticides, fumigants, rodenticides, etc.)?		

Environmental Assessment Checklist for Road Construction

Project No. _____

Project Name: _____

Issue affecting environment:	Y/N	If yes, describe & state mitigating actions:
If demolition of existing facilities is required, are there hazardous materials to be disposed of? (Tanks with chemical or fuel residue, PCBs, etc.)		
Is there any other pre-existing contamination on site (including petroleum products)?		
Does construction cross a wetland or flood plain?		
Will likely endangered species (plant or animal) be affected?		
Does selected route affect any cultural or archeological sites?		
Will proposed road alignment deviate from existing road alignment at any point?		
Is cut and fill required affecting existing grade more than 0.5 meters at any location?		
Will proposed road alignment require fill in any wetland?		
Will proposed road alignment go thru any cultural or archeological sites?		
Will activities likely result in dust creation, debris/solid waste generation, soil erosion or the loss of topsoil during/after construction?		
Will proposed drainage structures fail to adequately manage storm-water runoff to minimize erosion and damage to receiving streams?		
Will construction disturb any vegetated areas or involve removal of trees?		
Will detours, construction camps or other areas temporarily associated with construction cause any adverse environmental effects?		
Will construction activities (hauling, blasting, quarries, fuel storage, water usage, etc.) cause any adverse environmental effects?		

Will borrow of fill material cause adverse effects at the borrow site?		
Have disposal of excess materials been adequately planned to prevent adverse effects at the disposal site?		
Will project significantly add to air pollution (dust, vehicle exhaust) during construction or when in use?		
Will excavation increase likelihood of landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, or instability affecting others?		
Is there possible conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?		
Will project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?		
Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?		
Does the project propose to use biocides (pesticides, fumigants, rodenticides, etc.)?		

Environmental Assessment Checklist for Bridge Construction

Project No. _____

Project Name: _____

Issue affecting environment:	Answer	If yes, describe & state mitigating actions:
Is selected site in a wetland or flood plain?		
Is selected site on or near a cultural or archeological site?		
Will operation of completed facility generate any type of pollution? (E.g., air emissions, hazardous waste, petroleum spill, etc.)		
Will building's use cause significant drawdown of local water table?		
Will stormwater runoff from site (paved areas, roof, etc.) significantly increase compared to pre-construction?		
Will stormwater runoff from site likely contain any materials hazardous to the environment?		
Will proposed construction cause removal of vegetated areas or trees?		
Will sewage produced by future occupants be managed to prevent contamination of groundwater?		
Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?		
Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion, siltation or flooding on- or off-site?		
Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?		
Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?		

Will activities likely result in dust creation, debris/solid waste generation, soil erosion or the loss of top - soil during/after construction?		
Does the project propose to use biocides (pesticides, fumigants, rodenticides, etc.)?		

Environmental Assessment Checklist for Irrigation, Dams & Water Projects

Project No. _____

Project Name: _____

Issue:	Answer	If yes, describe & state mitigating actions:
Is selected site in a wetland or flood plain?		
Is selected site on or near a cultural or archeological site?		
Will operation of completed facility generate any type of pollution? (E.g., air emissions, hazardous waste, petroleum spill, etc.)		
Will building's use cause significant drawdown of local water table?		
Will stormwater runoff from site (paved areas, roof, etc.) significantly increase compared to pre-construction?		
Will stormwater runoff from site likely contain any materials hazardous to the environment?		
Will proposed construction cause removal of vegetated areas or trees?		
Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on- or off-site?		
Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?		
Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?		

Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?		
Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		
Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?		
Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?		
Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?		
Will activities likely result in dust creation, debris/solid waste generation, soil erosion or the loss of top - soil during/after construction?		
Does the project propose to use biocides (pesticides, fumigants, rodenticides, etc.)?		
Does the project propose to use acutely hazardous materials such as cholorine gas or hazardous water/wastewater treatment chemicals?		
Does the project propose to develop a new drinking or potable water supply?		

Environmental Assessment Checklist for Airfield Construction

Project No. _____

Project Name: _____

Issue affecting environment:	Answer	If yes, describe & state mitigating actions:
If demolition of existing facilities is required, are there hazardous materials to be disposed of? (Tanks with chemical or fuel residue, PCBs, etc.)		
Is there any other pre-existing contamination on site?		
Does construction cross a wetland or flood plain?		
Will likely endangered species (plant or animal) be affected?		
Does selected route affect any cultural or archeological sites?		
Will proposed road alignment follow existing road alignment all the way?		
Is cut and fill required affecting existing grade more than 0.5 meters at any location?		
Will proposed road alignment require fill in any wetland?		
Will proposed road alignment go thru any cultural or archeological sites?		
Will activities likely result in dust creation, debris/solid waste generation, soil erosion or the loss of top - soil during/after construction?		
Will proposed road increase stormwater runoff?		
Will proposed drainage structures adequately manage stormwater runoff to minimize erosion and damage to receiving streams?		
Will construction disturb any vegetated areas or involve removal of trees?		
Will detours, construction camps or other areas temporarily associated with construction cause any adverse environmental effects?		
Will construction activities		

(hauling, blasting, quarries, fuel storage, water usage, etc.) cause any adverse environmental effects?		
For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?		
Will project significantly add to air pollution during construction or when in use?		
Will excavation increase likelihood of landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, or instability affecting others?		
Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?		
Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?		
Does the project propose to use biocides (pesticides, fumigants, rodenticides, etc.)?		

DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Project No. _____ **Project Name:** _____
 (to be completed by USAID's Implementing Organization's Environmental Engineer):

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DETERMINATION is hereby declared.
	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. (Detailed explanation attached or adequately addressed above.) A NEGATIVE DETERMINATION WITH CONDITIONS is hereby declared.
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT is required, along with a prior scoping statement, both of which must be reviewed and approved by the Bureau Environmental Officer prior to project implementation.
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. The EA, along with a prior scoping statement, must be reviewed and approved by the Bureau Environmental Officer prior to project implementation.
	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EA/EIS or NEGATIVE DETERMINATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EA or NEGATIVE DETERMINATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

 Signature of USAID Implementing Organization Environmental Engineer

 Date

 Typed Name of USAID Implementing Organization Environmental Engineer

 Signature of USAID-Afghanistan Quick Impact Program Manager

 Date

 Typed Name of USAID-Afghanistan QIP Manager

 Signature of USAID-Afghanistan Environmental Officer

 Date

 Typed Name of USAID-Afghanistan Environmental Officer