whether the project under consider-
action will have a significant environ-
mental effect prior to recommending
to the official responsible for approving a formula project in the case of for-
mula grants, or the official responsible for awarding a grant or cooperative agreement in the case of a grant or co-
operative agreement that the action be undertaken. Unless otherwise deter-
mained to be necessary under the provi-
sions of paragraph (b) of this section, however, the preparation of an EA or
EIS is not required for the following
categories of actions:

(1) Department of Agriculture Categor-
ical Exclusions (7 CFR 1b.3). (i) Policy
development, planning and implementa-
tion which are related to routine ac-
tivities such as personnel, organiza-
tional changes, or similar administra-
tive functions;
(ii) Activities which deal solely with
the functions of programs, such as pro-
gram budget proposals, disbursement,
and transfer or reprogramming of
funds;
(iii) Inventories, research activities
and studies, such as resource inven-
tories and routine data collection when
such actions are clearly limited in con-
text and intensity;
(iv) Educational and informational pro-
grams and activities;
(v) Civil and criminal law enforce-
ment and investigative activities;
(vi) Activities which are advisory and
consultative to other agencies and pub-
lic and private entities; and
(vii) Activities related to trade rep-
resentation and market development
activities abroad.
(2) CSREES categorical exclusions. Based on previous experience, the fol-
lowing categories of CSREES actions are excluded because they have been
found to have limited scope and inten-
sity and to have no significant indi-
vidual or cumulative impacts on the
quality of the human environment:
(i) The following categories of re-
search programs or projects of limited
size and magnitude or with only short-
term effects on the environment:
(A) Research conducted within any
laboratory, greenhouse, or other con-
tained facility where research prac-
tices and safeguards prevent environ-
mental impacts;

(B) Surveys, inventories, and similar studies that have limited context and
minimal intensity in terms of changes
in the environment; and
(C) Testing outside of the laboratory,
such as in small isolated field plots,
which involves the routine use of fa-
miliar chemicals or biological mate-
rials.
(ii) Routine renovation, rehabili-
tation, or revitalization of physical fa-
cilities, including the acquisition and
installation of equipment, where such
activity is limited in scope and inten-
sity.
(b) Exceptions to categorical exclu-
sions. Notwithstanding paragraph (a)
of this section, an EA or EIS shall be
prepared for an activity which is nor-
manly within the purview of categor-
ical exclusion where it is determined
by CSREES that substantial con-
troversy on environmental grounds ex-
ists or that other extraordinary condi-
tions or circumstances are present
which may cause such activity to have
a significant environmental effect.

§ 3407.7 Actions normally requiring an environmental assessment.
The following actions normally will
require an EA:
(a) Programs supported in whole or
in part by CSREES which may result
in a particular technology’s moving
from the field evaluation stage to
large-scale demonstration or simulated
commercial phase.
(b) Field work that is expected to
have an effect on the human environ-
ment such as large-scale excavations or
the use of explosives.
(c) Projects for the construction or
renovation of physical facilities, unless
categorically excluded under §3407.6(a)(2)(ii).
(d) Activities specified in §3407.6(b).

§ 3407.8 Actions normally requiring an environmental impact statement.
An EIS normally will be required for
major actions where it is determined
by CSREES that such activity will sig-
nificantly affect the quality of the
human environment, including those
specified in §3407.6(b).