repeat any of the discussion in the as-
sessment but may incorporate it by
reference.

§ 1508.14 Human environment.

*Human environment* shall be inter-
preted comprehensively to include the
natural and physical environment and
the relationship of people with that en-
vironment. (See the definition of “ef-
facts” (§1508.8).) This means that eco-
omic or social effects are not intended
by themselves to require preparation of
an environmental impact statement. 
When an environmental impact state-
ment is prepared and economic or so-
cial and natural or physical environ-
mental effects are interrelated, then
the environmental impact statement
will discuss all of these effects on the
human environment.

§ 1508.15 Jurisdiction by law.

*Jurisdiction by law* means agency au-
thority to approve, veto, or finance all
or part of the proposal.

§ 1508.16 Lead agency.

*Lead agency* means the agency or
agencies preparing or having taken pri-
mary responsibility for preparing the
environmental impact statement.

§ 1508.17 Legislation.

*Legislation* includes a bill or legisla-
tive proposal to Congress developed by
or with the significant cooperation and
support of a Federal agency, but does
not include requests for appropriations.
The test for significant cooperation is
whether the proposal is in fact pre-
dominantly that of the agency rather
than another source. Drafting does not
by itself constitute significant co-
operation. Proposals for legislation in-
clude requests for ratification of trea-
ties or agreements; formal documents
establishing an agency’s policies which
will result in or substantially alter
agency programs.

(a) Actions include new and con-
tinuing activities, including projects
and programs entirely or partly fi-
anced, assisted, conducted, regulated,
or approved by federal agencies; new or
revised agency rules, regulations,
plans, policies, or procedures; and leg-
islative proposals (§§1506.8, 1508.17). Ac-
tions do not include funding assistance
solely in the form of general revenue
sharing funds, distributed under the
State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act
of 1972, 31 U.S.C. 1221 et seq., with no
Federal agency control over the subse-
quent use of such funds. Actions do not
include bringing judicial or adminis-
trative civil or criminal enforcement
actions.

(b) Federal actions tend to fall within
one of the following categories:

(1) Adoption of official policy, such
as rules, regulations, and interpreta-
tions adopted pursuant to the Adminis-
trative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 551 et
seq.; treaties and international conven-
tions or agreements; formal documents
establishing an agency’s policies which
will result in or substantially alter
agency programs.

(2) Adoption of formal plans, such as
official documents prepared or ap-
proved by federal agencies which guide
or prescribe alternative uses of Federal
resources, upon which future agency
actions will be based.

(3) Adoption of programs, such as a
group of concerted actions to imple-
ment a specific policy or plan; sys-
tematic and connected agency decisions al-
locating agency resources to imple-
ment a specific statutory program or
executive directive.

(4) Approval of specific projects, such as
construction or management activi-
ties located in a defined geographic
area. Projects include actions approved
by permit or other regulatory decision
as well as federal and federally assisted
activities.

§ 1508.18 Major Federal action.

*Major Federal action* includes actions
with effects that may be major and
which are potentially subject to Fed-
eral control and responsibility. Major
reinforces but does not have a meaning
independent of significantly (§1508.27).
Actions include the circumstance
where the responsible officials fail to
act and that failure to act is review-
able by courts or administrative tribu-
nals under the Administrative Proce-
dure Act or other applicable law as
agency action.

§ 1508.19 Matter.

*Matter* includes for purposes of part
1504: