

ligations of any Federal agency (1) to comply with criteria or standards of environmental quality, (2) to coordinate or consult with any other Federal or State agency, or (3) to act, or refrain from acting contingent upon the recommendations or certification of any other Federal or State agency.

(Pub. L. 91-190, title I, §104, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 854.)

§ 4335. Efforts supplemental to existing authorizations

The policies and goals set forth in this chapter are supplementary to those set forth in existing authorizations of Federal agencies.

(Pub. L. 91-190, title I, §105, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 854.)

§ 4336. Procedure for determination of level of review

(a) Threshold determinations

An agency is not required to prepare an environmental document with respect to a proposed agency action if—

- (1) the proposed agency action is not a final agency action within the meaning of such term in chapter 5 of title 5;
- (2) the proposed agency action is excluded pursuant to one of the agency's categorical exclusions, another agency's categorical exclusions consistent with section 4336c of this title, or another provision of law;
- (3) the preparation of such document would clearly and fundamentally conflict with the requirements of another provision of law; or
- (4) the proposed agency action is a nondiscretionary action with respect to which such agency does not have authority to take environmental factors into consideration in determining whether to take the proposed action.

(b) Levels of review

(1) Environmental impact statement

An agency shall issue an environmental impact statement with respect to a proposed agency action requiring an environmental document that has a reasonably foreseeable significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

(2) Environmental assessment

An agency shall prepare an environmental assessment with respect to a proposed agency action that does not have a reasonably foreseeable significant effect on the quality of the human environment, or if the significance of such effect is unknown, unless the agency finds that the proposed agency action is excluded pursuant to one of the agency's categorical exclusions, another agency's categorical exclusions consistent with section 4336c of this title, or another provision of law. Such environmental assessment shall be a concise public document prepared by a Federal agency to set forth the basis of such agency's finding of no significant impact or determination that an environmental impact statement is necessary.

(3) Sources of information

In making a determination under this subsection, an agency—

(A) may make use of any reliable data source; and

(B) is not required to undertake new scientific or technical research unless the new scientific or technical research is essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives, and the overall costs and time frame of obtaining it are not unreasonable.

(Pub. L. 91-190, title I, §106, as added Pub. L. 118-5, div. C, title III, §321(b), June 3, 2023, 137 Stat. 39.)

§ 4336a. Timely and unified Federal reviews

(a) Lead agency

(1) Designation

(A) In general

If there are two or more participating Federal agencies, such agencies shall determine, by letter or memorandum, which agency shall be the lead agency based on consideration of the—

- (i) magnitude of agency's involvement;
- (ii) project approval or disapproval authority;
- (iii) expertise concerning the action's environmental effects;
- (iv) duration of agency's involvement; and
- (v) sequence of agency's involvement.

(B) Joint lead agencies

In making a determination under subparagraph (A), the participating Federal agencies may appoint such State, Tribal, or local agencies as joint lead agencies as the involved Federal agencies shall determine appropriate. Joint lead agencies shall jointly fulfill the role described in paragraph (2).

(2) Role

A lead agency shall, with respect to a proposed agency action—

(A) supervise the preparation of an environmental document if, with respect to such proposed agency action, there is more than one participating Federal agency;

(B) request the participation of each cooperating agency at the earliest practicable time;

(C) in preparing an environmental document, give consideration to any analysis or proposal created by a cooperating agency;

(D) develop a schedule, in consultation with each cooperating agency, the applicant, and such other entities as the lead agency determines appropriate, for completion of any environmental review, permit, or authorization required to carry out the proposed agency action;

(E) if the lead agency determines that a review, permit, or authorization will not be completed in accordance with the schedule developed under subparagraph (D), notify the agency responsible for issuing such review, permit, or authorization of the discrepancy and request that such agency take such measures as such agency determines appropriate to comply with such schedule; and

(F) meet with a cooperating agency that requests such a meeting.