

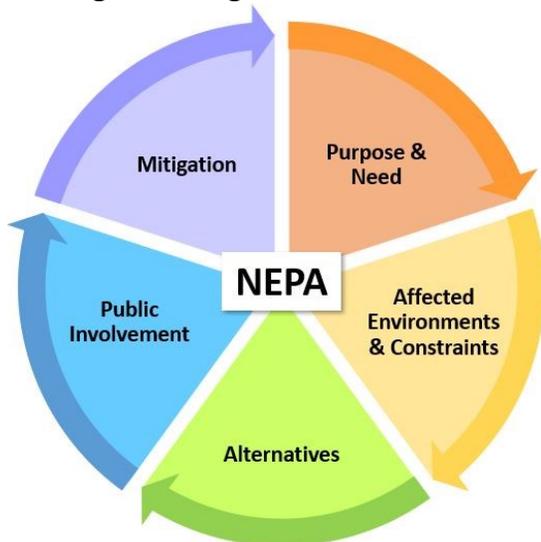


Federal Indian Trust Transactions eligible for Categorical Exclusions

Brief explanation of the NEPA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process is a set of activities to gather information on, analyze, and document the potential environmental effects of a proposed project. NEPA is required when a Federal action is taken that may have impacts on the human and natural environment.

5 Integrated Stages of the NEPA Process



Categorical Exclusion

A categorical exclusion (CE) is a class of actions that a Federal agency has determined, after review by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is normally required. The use of categorical exclusions can reduce paperwork and save time and resources.



Developed by the Branch of Natural Resources in the Office of Trust Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Summary of Current BIA Categorical Exclusions

516 DM 10: Managing the NEPA Process

- A. Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement of Existing Facilities
- B. Transfer of Existing Facilities to other Entities
- C. Human Resources Programs
- D. Administrative Actions and Other Activities
- E. Self-Determination and Self-Governance
- F. Rights-of-Way inside another ROW, or amendment without deviations, service line agreements, renewals, assignments, conversions of existing ROWs with no change in use
- G. Minerals - Approval of permits, unitization agreements, communitization agreements, mineral lease adjustments, transfers, assignments, and royalty determinations
- H. Forestry - (with limitations) various cutting permits, approval of logging plans, emergency forest and range rehabilitation plans, forest stand improvement projects, fire management planning analysis, timber management access, prescribed burns, forestation projects, harvesting live and salvaging dead trees
- I. Land Conveyance and other transfers where no change in land use is planned
- J. Reservation Proclamations
- K. Waste Management - closure operations for solid waste facilities and remediation of hazardous waste sites
- L. Roads and Transportation
- M. Other - data gathering, non-disturbance environmental monitoring, testing, approvals of permits to drill, conversion of abandoned oil well to water well, permits under Archeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa-II), approval of leases, easements, or funds for single family homesites and associated improvements.