

NEPA Overview for the Weatherization Assistance Program



NEPA

National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA is the “basic national charter for the protection of the environment”. It requires that the government evaluate the environmental effects of federal actions on the human environment.

The NEPA process is a federal requirement for all WAP projects. It is a required step, just like submitting a budget proposal.

Did you know?

DOE has always completed an environmental review of all Weatherization projects before funds were awarded to States.

The goal of this webinar is to ensure everyone understands what is already happening, and who to contact with questions.

Why do I need to understand NEPA – What's so important about it?

The Weatherization program is adjusting to State's needs and as project activities change, it is important for States to increase their understanding of NEPA for multiple reasons - including compliance with financial assistance terms and conditions to ensure activities are reimbursable.

A clear understanding of NEPA helps to ensure smooth project implementation and payment by DOE!

NEPA does:

**review statements of work submitted for a
NEPA review by Project Officers or States.**

NEPA does not:

**make WAP programmatic or eligibility
decisions, or
approve projects – only a Contracting
Officer can do that!**

Starting with the 2017 ALRD you will see:

An expanded NEPA section in the ALRD, including a list of NEPA reviewed activities; and

The NEPA determination included in your award documents. (A NEPA Determination is the documented NEPA review of a project completed by DOE.)

To assist States, DOE is sharing more NEPA information to ensure NEPA reviewed project activities are clearly communicated.

How is a NEPA review completed?

An ALRD-wide NEPA review

OR

An individual project review

Both processes result in a NEPA Determination!

WAP Statement of Work for 2016 ALRD:

1. Administrative activities associated with management of the designated Weatherization Office and management of programs and strategies in support of weatherization activities. (A9)
2. Development and implementation of training programs and strategies for weatherization effort, including initial home audits, final inspections and client education. (A9 & A11)
3. Purchase of vehicles and equipment needed for weatherization audits. (B5.1)
4. Weatherization activities provided that projects apply the restrictions of each state's programmatic agreement with SHPO, and are limited to (B5.1):
 - Installation of many types of insulation;
 - Air sealing (caulk, door sweeps, weather-stripping, etc.)
 - Heating and cooling system safety checks (clean & tunes)....

(This language is used for the NEPA Determination)

NEPA Determination for ALRD:

PMC-ND
(1.08.09.13)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION



RECIPIENT: All 50 States, DC, 5 U.S. Territories & 3 Federally-recognized Native American Tribes

STATE: Mult

PROJECT TITLE : Weatherization Assistance Program Program Year 2016 Formula Grants

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
WAP-ALRD-2016	GFO-WAP-2016	GFO-WAP2016	

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)

What if a proposed project activity is not listed in the NEPA Determination for the ALRD?

An individual NEPA review is required for the project. Contact your Project Officer and we will work together to help you with this process, so the result will be a NEPA Determination for the specific project.

What's Next?

- Look for more information coming your way with the 2017 ALRD!
- We will be working with the States in the upcoming year to ensure a growing understanding of NEPA, and how it works for the Weatherization Program.

Questions?

Diana Heyder, NEPA Specialist

diana.heyder@ee.doe.gov

720-356-1574

OR

gonepa@ee.doe.gov