




# Changes to Environmental Documentation

## Categorical Exclusions + Section 7

# What's New?

- ▶ Categorical Exclusion Forms
- ▶ Categorical Exclusion Manual
- ▶ Section 7 Documentation
- ▶ Bat Programmatic Agreement
- ▶ Going green 

# Why the change?

- ▶ Produce consistent, project specific documents
- ▶ Complete reviews to the maximum extent practicable (*23 CFR 771.105(a)*)
- ▶ Timely document processing
- ▶ Electronic administrative record

# What's Different with CE's?

- ▶ Removed redundant/unnecessary questions
- ▶ Used consistent wording of questions
- ▶ Blank page template to add pages as needed
- ▶ Some questions auto-populate the following responses based on answer
- ▶ Tool-tips within form to guide you to the information requested
- ▶ Bookmarked Sections
- ▶ Easy to compile final document with attachments
- ▶ New guidance with links
- ▶ Entire document can be completed electronically
- ▶ Able to complete documents more clearly and consistently

# Alternatives Analysis

- ▶ The alternatives analysis is now included as an appendix to the document
  - ▶ Summary of all alternatives considered
  - ▶ Number of alternatives considered should be commensurate with project type and complexity
  - ▶ Summary of impacts, level of effectiveness in addressing P&N, and reasoning for not selecting
- ▶ Only the preferred and no-build should be discussed within the CE Review
  - ▶ Describe the alternative, summarize the impacts and clearly explain how it effectively meets the P&N versus the no-build



# Removed Unnecessary Questions

## ► Old CE Checklist

I. Noise Impact (23 CFR Part 772)	NA	YES	NO
1. Indicate if any of the following are applicable, which would necessitate a traffic noise analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> New roadway on new alignment <input type="checkbox"/> Addition of 1 or more through travel or auxiliary lanes <input type="checkbox"/> Significant change in vehicle mix or traffic speed <input type="checkbox"/> Significant change in horizontal or vertical alignment <input type="checkbox"/> Addition or relocation of interchange lanes or ramps <input type="checkbox"/> Addition or alteration of weigh station, rest area, ride share, or toll plaza <input type="checkbox"/> Change in roadway character that substantially reduces the shielding effect of landforms or noise barriers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There are noise-sensitive receivers/land uses adjacent to the proposed project (e.g., residences, businesses, schools, parks, etc.). <i>See KYTC Noise Analysis and Abatement Policy, Table 1.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Traffic noise analysis demonstrates that KYTC noise abatement criteria will be exceeded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. A substantial increase of 10+ db from existing conditions will result from build alternative.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. There are feasible and reasonable measures that can reduce impacts. <i>If "Yes," discuss in 1.6 below.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Describe noise impact and abatement measures (if applicable).			

## ► New CE Review

<b>23. Noise</b>	
<b>A) Is this project considered a Type I project?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>B) Discuss the analysis completed and any additional efforts required.</b>	

# Allows for Project-Specific Documents

L. Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E)	NA	YES	NO
1. Sources considered to identify potential impacts to federally threatened and endangered species (attach copies): <input type="checkbox"/> DEA Combined Species List Species identified: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Habitat Assessment indicated federally listed T&E <u>habitat</u> present in vicinity No Effect determined for _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Indiana bat and/or Northern long-ear bat ( <i>check all that apply</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> To be determined <input type="checkbox"/> No Effect <input type="checkbox"/> CMOA <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Cutting Restrictions			
4. Is project located upstream of or within Designated Critical Habitat? ( <i>consultation with DEA required</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Biological Assessment required: List species: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Completed (attach USFWS letter) <input type="checkbox"/> To complete before construction (CAP entry recommended and include in Section 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Is project likely to adversely affect federally listed T&E? (*formal consultation required*) \*

\* *If the project is likely to affect a federally listed T&E species, excluding Indiana Bat addressed through a CMOA, it is not eligible for CE Level 1 or 2, and DEA and FHWA must be consulted.*

7. Describe T&E species concerns/protective measures.

## 27. Threatened and Endangered Species

A) Is the project considered a No Effect by Definition?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
B) List IPAC Species identified in project area, determination of effect, and additional analysis required.			
Species	Determination of Effect	Additional Analysis Required	
C) Is the project located upstream of or within designated critical habitat?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
D) Discuss the analysis completed and any additional efforts required.			



# Section 7 Review and Documentation

## Review:

- ▶ Habitat Assessment Required prior to NEPA Approval
- ▶ Complete to Maximum Extent Practicable

## Documentation:

- ▶ Deferred activities require
  - ▶ Justification
  - ▶ Anticipated Schedule
  - ▶ Subject to FHWA audit

## Justification Examples:

- ▶ Seasonal survey time frames
- ▶ Need better defined project footprint or plan set
- ▶ Property access issues
- ▶ Expedited schedules with funding eligibility deadlines

# Other Changes to Section 7: Bat Programmatic Agreement

- ▶ Now includes gray bats
- ▶ Updates forms
- ▶ Simplified habitat categories
- ▶ Updated rate and date options

# More User-friendly Forms

- ▶ Automatically completes responses based on initial answer

- ▶ Tool-tips **Termini Description:**

Explain logic behind termini. Include rationale for independent utility. Ensure this explains how the project is a usable and reasonable expenditure of funds even if no additional transportation improvements are made.

- ▶ Bookmarks
- ▶ Add pages as needed
- ▶ Compile multiple PDF's to single document
- ▶ Send for electronic review and signature

17. Local Land Use and Transportation Plan				
A) Is there a local land use and/or local transportation plan?		Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B) Is the project consistent with the local land use plan?	NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
C) Is the project consistent with the local transportation plan?	NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Bookmarks ✕

---

☰ | 
 🗑️
📌
📌

---

- 📌 4. [Table of Contents/Attachments/Appendices](#)
- 📌 5. Environmental Mitigation/Commitments
- 📌 6. Project Termini
- 📌 7. Roadway Conditions and Setting
- 📌 8. Purpose and Need
- 📌 9. Alternative Description and Analysis of Preferred Alternative and No-build
- 📌 10. Comments and Coordination

# New CE Manual

- ▶ Removed redundant language
- ▶ Includes further guidance to complete CE
- ▶ Provides guidance on how to use PDF tools
- ▶ Bookmarked

# Project Managers

- ▶ Straightforward format
- ▶ Manual details review for specific questions
  - ▶ Project Summary
  - ▶ Environmental Determination
  - ▶ Environmental Mitigation/Commitments
  - ▶ Project Termini
  - ▶ Roadway Conditions and Setting
  - ▶ Purpose and Need
  - ▶ Alternative Description and Analysis
- ▶ When does my document need to be re-evaluated?

# When is it happening?

- ▶ Coming soon!
- ▶ Training for KYTC will be included with annual EC training this fall
- ▶ Manual is intended to provide guidance
- ▶ If have issues/questions, ask!
  - ▶ Multi-page form and manual are easily editable
- ▶ Adobe Acrobat DC Standard



Questions?