



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400

ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS,
AND ENVIRONMENT

September 3, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Department of War Guidance for Categorical Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act

The Department of War (Department) continues to streamline the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to expedite informed decision making in support of mission needs and administration priorities at all levels. The attached guidance (TAB B) provides methods for establishing, applying, revising, and adopting categorical exclusions that will enable the Department to quickly assess projects that are major federal actions with no significant impacts.

I recommend that you use this guidance any time a categorical exclusion needs to be updated, revised, adopted, or canceled. By implementing this new guidance, we expect expedited environmental reviews, reduced costs for the Department, and rapid deployment of military projects vital to national security. Streamlining the categorical exclusion process will enable our workforce to focus on performing further NEPA analysis on major federal action projects with uncertain or significant impacts. The guidance at TAB B will be incorporated into the Department's NEPA implementing procedures as an appendix.

My point of contact for this matter is Mr. Terry Bowers, at osd.mc-alex.ousd-a-s.mbx.nepa@mail.mil or 703-693-9447.

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Dale R. Marks

Attachments:
As stated

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