

§ 799.8

information required to be submitted in support of their application;

(2) Conduct any studies which are deemed necessary and appropriate by FSA to determine the impact of the proposed action on the human environment;

(3) Consult with appropriate Federal, regional, State and local agencies and other potentially interested parties during preliminary planning stages to ensure that all environmental factors are identified;

(4) Submit applications for all Federal, regional, State and local approvals as early as possible in the planning process;

(5) Notify FSA as early as possible of all other Federal, regional, State, local and Indian tribe actions required for project completion so that FSA may coordinate all Federal environmental reviews; and

(6) Notify FSA of all known parties potentially affected by or interested in the proposed action.

§ 799.8 Making supplements to EISs part of the final administrative record.

Where FSA evaluates a proposal on the basis of a formal administrative record and an EIS on the proposal has been prepared, any supplement to the EIS shall be made a part of the formal record before a final decision on the proposal is made.

§ 799.9 Ensuring that environmental factors are considered in agency decisionmaking.

(a) The NEPA regulations at 40 CFR 1501.1 contain requirements to ensure adequate consideration of environmental factors in decisionmaking. To fulfill these requirements, FSA officials shall:

(1) Consider all relevant environmental factors in evaluating proposals for agency action;

(2) Make all relevant environmental documents, comments and responses part of the record in formal rule-making or adjudicatory proceedings.

(3) Ensure that all relevant environmental documents, comments and responses accompany the proposal through existing review processes;

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(4) Consider only those alternatives encompassed by the range of alternatives discussed in the relevant environmental documents when evaluating proposals for agency action.

(5) Where an EIS has been prepared, consider the specific alternatives analyzed in the EIS when evaluating the proposal which is the subject of the EIS.

(b) The four categories of FSA activities that have or are likely to have significant environment impacts on the human environment are:

(1) Legislative proposals.

(2) Initial program implementation.

(3) Major changes in ongoing programs.

(4) Major environmental concerns with ongoing programs.

(c) Initial NEPA involvement in program categories in paragraph (b) of this section shall begin at the time FSA begins developing proposed legislation, begins the planning stage for implementing a new or changed program or receives notice that an ongoing program may have a significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. Where a legislative EIS or environmental assessment is part of the formal transmittal of a legislative program proposal to Congress, such legislative EIS or assessment may negate the need for the subsequent preparation of a program impact statement when FSA implements the resulting program. The decision whether such additional statement is needed will be made by an interdisciplinary team. The NEPA process on legislative proposals and FSA programs is carried out at the national level.

(d) Individual farm participation in FSA programs will normally not require any major involvement with the NEPA process. The practices carried out under FSA programs that might have impacts on the quality of the human environment will normally have been discussed in environmental assessments or impact statements on the applicable programs. However, for those practices that might significantly affect the quality of the human environment, the county committee

shall make an environmental evaluation before approval. If the environmental evaluation shows that the implementation of a proposed FSA practice on an individual farm will have significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment, the county committee will not approve the practice implementation until after the completion of the NEPA-EIS process in accordance with this part. For those actions for which technical assistance is provided by an agency other than FSA, and such technical agency is required by its regulations to implement NEPA requirements when providing such assistance, the county committee shall use the environmental determination and considerations of such agency instead of duplicating the NEPA-EIS process. Individual farm participation in acreage set-aside, acreage allotments, price support and loans and other similar or related programs will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

(e) Pooling agreements and special projects carried out under several FSA programs involving two or more farmers in a local geographic area will not normally require any major involvement with the NEPA process. However, the county committee shall, with the assistance of a local interdisciplinary team, as necessary, make an environmental evaluation of proposed pooling agreements or special projects that have a potential for significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The NEPA process shall begin with the initial involvement of FSA personnel in the planning or development of pooling agreements or special projects. If it is determined from an environmental evaluation that the implementation of a proposed pooling agreement or a proposed special project will have a significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment, the completion of the NEPA-EIS process in accordance with these regulations will be necessary before approval. For those actions for which technical assistance is provided by an agency other than FSA and such technical agency is required by its regulations to implement NEPA when providing such assistance the county committee shall use the environmental de-

terminations and considerations of such agency instead of duplicating the NEPA-EIS process.

§ 799.10 Criteria and identification of FSA actions as to degree of involvement under the NEPA process.

(a) FSA will for each of its legislative proposals, initial program implementations, program changes or any actions under its ongoing programs make a determination by the use of an environmental evaluation as to whether or not an environmental assessment or EIS is required.

(b) The NEPA regulations issued by CEQ at 40 CFR 1507.3(b)(2) in conjunction with the regulations at 40 CFR 1508.4 require agencies to determine those typical classes of actions for treatment under NEPA. The typical classes of FSA actions for treatment under NEPA are set forth as follows:

(1) Actions normally requiring an EIS are:

(i) Production adjustment programs to balance supply and demand of specified commodities, through cropland set-aside or other acreage diversion.

(ii) Agricultural Conservation Program.

(iii) Rural Clean Water Program.

(iv) Other major actions that are determined after an environmental evaluation and/or an environmental assessment to significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

(2) Actions normally not requiring an assessment or an EIS are:

(i) Individual farm participation in FSA programs.

(ii) Pooling agreements and special projects under FSA programs.

(iii) Production adjustment programs for tobacco, peanuts and extra long staple cotton.

(iv) Emergency Conservation Program.

(v) Water Bank Program.

(vi) Forestry Incentives Program.

(vii) Sugar Program.

(viii) Wool and Mohair Incentives Program.

(ix) Bee and Dairy Indemnity Programs.

(x) Commodity Income and Support and Disaster Protection Programs.

(xi) Facility Loan Program.

(xii) Grain Reserve Program.

(xiii) Livestock Feed Program.