

studies or surveys conducted to investigate the presence of such properties and will utilize persons with appropriate knowledge and experience.

(2) If the information obtained, as a result of the consultation and investigations conducted by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354, indicates the presence of an historic or cultural property within the area of potential environmental impact that, in the opinion of the SHPO and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354, appear to meet the National Register Criteria (36 CFR 60.4), the property will be considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. If the SHPO and FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 do not agree on the property's eligibility for the National Register or if the Secretary of the Interior or the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation so requests, FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 will request a determination of eligibility from the Keeper of the National Register in accordance with 36 CFR part 63. Consultations will be initiated with the SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in accordance with 36 CFR part 800, through the implementation of subpart F of part 1901 of this chapter, to determine the most appropriate course of action to protect all National Register and eligible properties within the area of potential environmental impact.

(3) Further instructions detailing the procedures to be followed in considering and protecting historic and cultural properties and the responsible Agency officials are contained in subpart F of part 1901 of this chapter. These procedures will be followed whenever a proposal, considered by FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354, has the potential to affect National Register or eligible properties.

(h) *Coastal barriers.* In those States having coastal barriers within the Coastal Barrier Resources System, each application for financial assistance or subdivision approval, as well as the proposed disposal of real property, will be reviewed to determine if it would be located within the system, and, if so, whether the action must be

denied on this basis or meets the Act's criteria for an exception. To accomplish the review, all affected State, District and County Offices will maintain a current set of maps, as issued by DOI, which depict those coastal barriers within their jurisdiction that have been included in the system. FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354's implementation procedures for accomplishing this review requirement and for consulting as necessary with DOI are contained in exhibit F of this subpart. The exceptions to the restrictions of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act are contained in exhibit L of this subpart.

(i) *Water and energy conservation.* Water and energy conservation measures will be considered at both the program and project level in a manner consistent with program regulations.

(j) *Noise abatement.* For purposes of assessing noise impacts and for determining the acceptability of housing sites in terms of their exposure to noise, FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 has adopted and follows the standards and procedures developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and contained in 24 CFR part 51 of subpart B entitled, "Noise Abatement and Control."

(k) *Water quality.* Each application for financial assistance or subdivision approval and the proposed disposal of real property will be reviewed to determine if it would impair a State water quality standard or meet antidegradation requirements. When necessary, the proposed activity will be modified to protect water quality standards, including designated and/or existing beneficial uses that water quality criteria are designed to protect, and meet antidegradation requirements.

§ 1940.306 Environmental responsibilities within the National Office.

(a) *Administrator.* The Administrator of FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 has the direct responsibility for Agency compliance with all environmental laws, Executive orders, and regulations that apply to FmHA or its successor agency under

Public Law 103-354's program and administrative actions. As such, the Administrator ensures that this responsibility is adequately delegated to Agency staff and remains informed on the general status of Agency compliance, as well as the need for any necessary improvements. The Administrator is also responsible for ensuring that the Agency's manpower and financial needs for accomplishing adequate compliance with this subpart are reflected and documented in budget requests for departmental consideration.

(b) *Deputy Administrator Program Operations.* (1) The Deputy Administrator for Program Operations has the delegated overall Agency responsibility for developing and implementing environmental policies and compliance procedures, monitoring their effectiveness, and advising the Administrator on the status of compliance, to include recommendations for any necessary changes in this subpart. The incumbent is also responsible for developing and documenting, as part of the Agency's budget formulation process, the manpower and financial needs necessary to implement this subpart.

(2) The specific responsibilities of the Deputy Administrator—Program Operations are as follows:

(i) Provide for the Agency an interdisciplinary approach to environmental impact analysis and problem resolution, as required by the CEQ regulations;

(ii) Provide the leadership and technical expertise for the implementation of the Agency's environmental policies with special emphasis being placed on those policies relating to natural resource management, energy conservation, and orderly community development;

(iii) Coordinate the implementation of this subpart with affected program offices;

(iv) Provide policy direction and advice on the implementation of this subpart to Agency staff, particularly to SECs and technical support personnel within State Offices;

(v) Consult and coordinate, as needed or upon request, with the Department's interagency committees dealing with environmental, land use, and historic preservation matters;

(vi) Monitor the Agency's record in complying with this subpart;

(vii) Provide training programs and materials for the Agency staff assigned the functions identified in this subpart;

(viii) Review, as necessary, applications for funding assistance, proposed policies and regulations, and recommend their approval, disapproval, or modification after analyzing and considering their anticipated adverse environmental impacts, their benefits, and their consistency with the requirements of this subpart;

(ix) Develop and direct Agency procedures for complying with environmental legislation, Executive orders, and regulations, including, but not limited to, those listed in § 1940.301(c) of this subpart;

(x) Maintain a position identified as the Senior Environmental Specialist (hereafter called the Environmental Specialist), who will serve as the responsible Agency official under the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, maintain liaison on environmental matters with interested public groups and Federal agencies, and serve as the focal point for developing and coordinating the Agency's procedures for the requirements listed in § 1940.301(c) of this subpart; and

(xi) Review and evaluate legislative and administrative proposals in terms of their environmental impact.

(c) *Assistant Administrators for Programs.* The Assistant Administrators for Programs will:

(1) Ensure, as necessary, that environmental assessments and EISs for proposed program regulations are prepared by their staff;

(2) Ensure that all proposed actions that fall under the requirements of this subpart, and that are submitted to the National Office for approval or concurrence, contain adequate analyses and documentation of their potential environmental impacts (Transfer of program funds from National Office to State Office control to enable the State Office to approve an application is not considered to be National Office approval of or concurrence in an application);

(3) Consider and include, in the development of program regulations, feasible policies and mechanisms that promote program goals in a manner that either enhances environmental quality or reduces unnecessary adverse environmental impacts; and

(4) Designate one or more staff members to serve as a program environmental coordinator, having generally the same duties and responsibilities within the program office as the SEC has within the State Office (See § 1940.307(b) of this subpart).

§ 1940.307 Environmental responsibilities within the State Office.

(a) *State Director.* The State Director will:

(1) Serve as the responsible FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 official at the State Office level for ensuring compliance with the requirements of this subpart; and

(2) Appoint one individual to serve as the SEC. Thereafter, the SEC will report directly to the State Director on the environmental matters contained in this subpart.

(b) *State Environmental Coordinator (SEC).* The SEC will:

(1) Act as advisor to the State Director on environmental matters and coordinate the requirements of this subpart;

(2) Review those Agency actions which are not categorically excluded from this subpart (see §§ 1940.311 and 1940.312 of this subpart) and which require the approval and/or clearance of the State Office and recommend to the approving official either project approval, disapproval, or modification after analyzing and considering the—

(i) Anticipated adverse environmental impacts,

(ii) The anticipated benefits, and

(iii) The action's consistency with this subpart's requirements;

(3) Represent the State Director at conferences and meetings dealing with environmental matters of a State Office nature;

(4) Maintain liaison on State Office environmental matters with interested public groups and local, State, and other Federal agencies;

(5) Serve as the State Director's alternate on State-level USDA commit-

tees dealing with environmental, land use and historic preservation matters;

(6) Solicit, whenever necessary, the expert advice and assistance of other professional staff members within the State Office in order to adequately implement this subpart;

(7) Provide technical assistance as needed on a project-by-project basis to State, District, and County Office staffs;

(8) Develop controls for avoiding or mitigating adverse environmental impacts and monitor their implementation;

(9) Provide assistance in resolving post-approval environmental matters at the State Office level;

(10) Maintain records for those actions required by this subpart;

(11) Coordinate for the State Director the development of the State Office natural resource management guide;

(12) Provide direction and training to State, District, and County Office staffs on the requirements of this subpart; and

(13) Coordinate for the State Director the monitoring of the State Office's compliance with this subpart and keep the State Director advised of the results of the monitoring process.

(c) *Program Chiefs.* State Office Program Chiefs will:

(1) Be responsible for the adequacy of the environmental impact reviews required by this subpart for all program actions to be approved at the State Office level or concurred in at that level;

(2) Coordinate the above reviews as early as possible with the SEC, so that the latter can assist in addressing the resolution of any unresolved or difficult environmental issues in a timely manner; and

(3) Incorporate into projects and actions measures to avoid or reduce potential adverse environmental impacts identified in environmental reviews.

§ 1940.308 Environmental responsibilities at the District and County Office levels.

(a) The District Director will be responsible for carrying out the actions required by this subpart to be completed at the District Office level.

(b) The County Supervisor will be responsible for carrying out the actions