

BEAD Permitting Webinar

Georgia Technology Authority

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

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Meet the Presenters



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Webinar Objectives

1. Identify the Subgrantee responsibilities for identifying and obtaining the BEAD Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) and permits necessary for project compliance
2. Provide an overview of the technical assistance that will be provided to Subgrantee through GTA and RSM to support understanding and fulfillment of EHP and permitting obligations
3. Highlight the documentation and information required to verify compliance with EHP and permitting requirements

Roadmap for Prospective Subrecipients

Milestone	Phase
Please briefly describe the work you have done to familiarize yourself with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and how you will ensure that the full proposal you file complies with this act	Pre-Proposal
Outline the work you have undertaken to familiarize yourself with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and describe how you intend to comply with this act	Full-Proposal
Please certify that your entity will comply with all applicable federal and state laws, including laws related to labor and employment such as environmental and historic preservation including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and federal and state procurement policies and rules including the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act	Full-Proposal
Subgrantee to begin obtaining all required permits, reviews, consultations, etc.	Award
Awardee to provide all required documentation demonstrating efforts to secure the necessary permits & consultations, eventually providing finalized permits to GTA for review and submission to NTIA	Award



Limited Permissible Activities

The subgrantee may undertake or allow limited permissible activities to proceed using award funds prior to the completion of the environmental review process.

PRE-IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES:

- Pre-construction planning, including collecting information necessary to complete environmental reviews
- Applications for environmental permits
- Studies, including, but not limited to:
 - Environmental Assessments
 - Wetland delineations
 - Biological assessments
 - Archaeological surveys
 - Other environmental reviews and analyses
- Administrative and pre-award application costs
- Activities supporting consultations required under the NHPA, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act
- Limited, preliminary procurement, including the purchase or lease of equipment, or entering into binding contracts to do so; the purchase of applicable or conditional insurance; and/or funds used to secure land or building leases (including right-of-way easements)

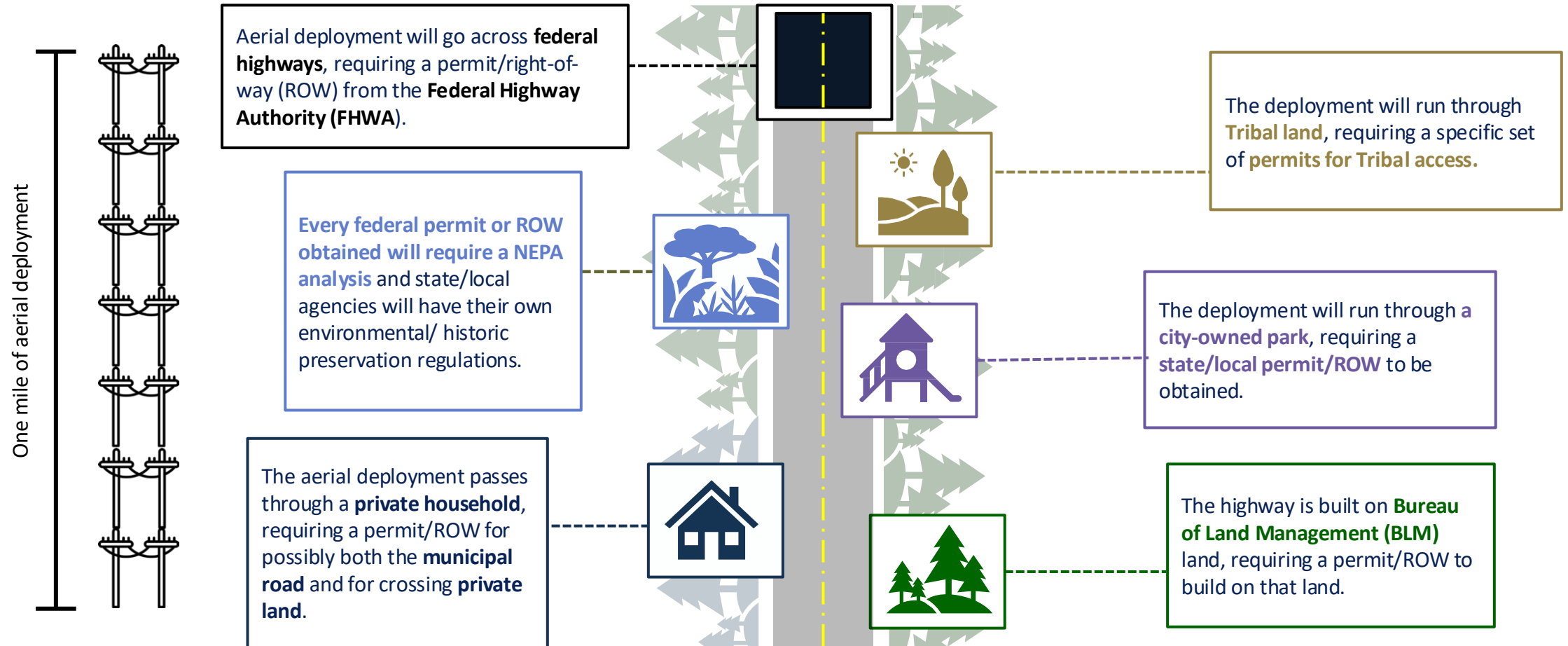


Subgrantees that undertake unauthorized project activities in contravention of this Section proceed at their own risk and may face de-obligation of funding.

Source: NTIA

Permitting Landscape

Construction of one-mile broadband deployment can require various local, state, and/or federal permits.



Source: NTIA

Identifying Permits: Examples

Grantees must identify and secure any necessary Federal, State and Regional/Local permits to carry out their projects. Not all permits must be obtained for the NEPA process to be completed.



Federal

Depending upon the impact to resources, required federal permits and approvals may include the following:

- USACE Section 10/404 – Impacts to wetlands and waterways of the US
- SHPO and/or THPO - Section 106 consultation
- US Coastal Zone Management - Projects located within a Coastal Zone requires a Consistency Review
- USFWS – Section 7 Consultation
- Hazardous Materials storage and transport (federal requirements for storage, marking, labeling under Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA], and transportation under the Department of Transportation [DOT])
- Hazardous Waste – compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements for generation, transport and disposal



State

States have varying permitting requirements including:

- State Environmental Quality or Protection Programs
- Stormwater permits
- Wetlands and Land Disturbing Permits
- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) (federal requirement but must apply to a state level)
- Hazardous Materials storage and transport (federal and state requirements may apply)



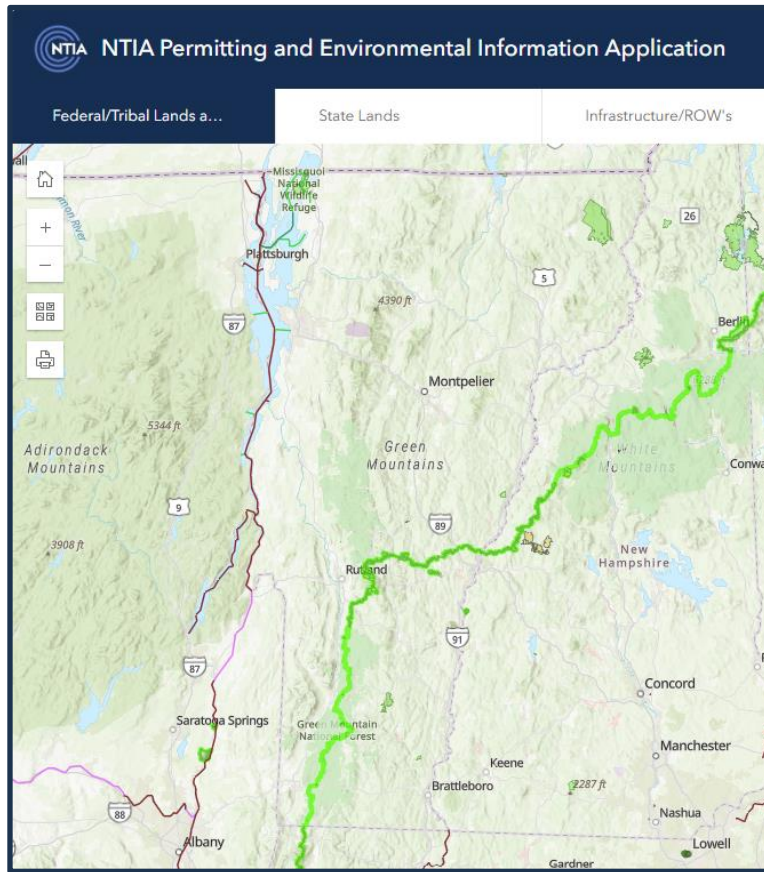
Regional & Local

Regional and Local Entities have permitting and approval processes including:

- Regional Planning organizations
- Local Noise and Idling ordinance
- Local stormwater discharge permits
- Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) permits
- Easements, authorizations, and inspection requirements

Source: [Streamlined Environmental Review & Permitting for Broadband: A Roadmap](#)

Identifying Permits: APPEIT



Source: [Streamlined Environmental Review & Permitting for Broadband: A Roadmap](#)


ArcGIS Pro Permitting and Environmental Information Tool (APPEIT)

Summary: APPEIT includes all the layers from the NTIA Permitting and Environmental Application as well as the APPEIT Tool, which allows users to input a project area and identify overlapping permit layers.

How to use: GTA subgrantees will download APPEIT and complete guided tasks, including adding proposed project boundaries to identify permits and environmental factors. The application will return a pdf or csv report identifying the jurisdictional overlaps from the mapping tool.

View the [NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information](#) Project package

Identifying Permits: APPEIT Results



ArcGIS Pro Permitting & Environmental Information (APPEIT) Report

Project Name: [Project Name]_Project B
 Project ID: [Project ID]
 Report Date: 07/30/2025 16:42:15
 Date Exported: 7/30/25 4:50:32 PM

Category	Layer Name	Area Name
EPA Programs	Impaired Waters - Assessment Areas	Beaverdam Creek
EPA Programs	Impaired Waters - Assessment Areas	HIWASSEE RIVER (Apalachia Lake below elevation 1281)
EPA Programs	Impaired Waters - Assessment Areas	HIWASSEE RIVER (Hiwassee Lake below elevation 1525)
EPA Programs	Impaired Waters - Assessment Lines	Beaverdam Creek
EPA Programs	Impaired Waters - Assessment Lines	HIWASSEE RIVER (Apalachia Lake below elevation 1281)
EPA Programs	Impaired Waters - Assessment Lines	HIWASSEE RIVER (Hiwassee Lake below elevation 1525)
EPA Programs	Impaired Waters - Assessment Lines	Shuler Creek
Federal/Tribal Land	Historical Trails - Lines	Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
Federal/Tribal Land	USFS Surface Ownership Parcels	National Forests in North Carolina
Floodplains/Wetands	FEMA Flood Hazard Zones	NA
Floodplains/Wetands	USFWS Wetlands	NA
Infrastructure	Electric Power Transmission Lines (HIFLD)	DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC
Infrastructure	Electric Power Transmission Lines (HIFLD)	TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
Infrastructure	Electric Retail Service Territories (HIFLD)	BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN EMC - (GA)
Infrastructure	Electric Retail Service Territories (HIFLD)	DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS, LLC
Infrastructure	Electric Retail Service Territories (HIFLD)	TRI-STATE ELECTRIC MEMBER CORP
Infrastructure	USFS - Right of Way	ALLEN, LUTHER
Infrastructure	USFS - Right of Way	DICKEY, W. S.
Infrastructure	USFS - Right of Way	HAMBY, CHRISTOPHER
Infrastructure	USFS - Right of Way	MORROW, BAYLESS
Infrastructure	USFS - Right of Way	MORROW, RICHARD
Infrastructure	USFS - Right of Way	MORROW, WILLARD T.

Report Totals
Count: 22

Source: [Streamlined Environmental Review & Permitting for Broadband: A Roadmap](#)

Identifying Permits: Clash Detection

ISP Name
Project: Project Name

The results compiled using [ArcGIS Pro Permitting and Environmental Information Tool \(APPEIT\)](#), and other GIS layers produced by the State of Vermont, should be used for informational purposes only. This is intended to assist users with preliminary identification of broadband deployments that may require permits or planning to avoid potentially significant impacts to environmental resources subject to the National environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutory requirements.

Subgrantees should conduct their own analysis of the proposed project build to better understand the permits and environmental review that may be required.

Common Permits / Reviews

- Right-of-Way, Easement, Crossing
- Environmental Analysis, NEPA Review
- Special Form (SF) - 299
- 811 Dig Safe Ticket

Data Sources & Resources

- [NTIA Online Permitting Application](#)
- [Vermont Agency of Transportation](#)
- [NTIA Permitting Resources](#)
- [Vermont DEC Permit Navigator](#)

Clash Analysis

500 Clashes Detected¹

22% May warrant an Environmental Analysis (110)

78% May warrant a Permit (390)

¹ The clash analysis used a 50' buffer around the linework submitted in the application

Key Agencies

Agency	Count of Clashes Detected
State or Local Transportation Department (Roadway ROW)	370
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)	100
Rail Company/Operator (VTrans, New England Central Railroad Inc., etc.)	10
Electric Company (Joint-Use Permit)	10
National Resources Board (ACRES, SEM_NPL, TRI)	6
State Historic Preservation Office	4

Project Area

Legend

- Proposed Linework
- Project Area


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Technical Assistance

RSM will provide a summary of the number and locations for each project and, for each clash, contact information for the state or local agency responsible for the reviews or permits.

Identifying Permits: Contacting Relevant Agencies

Key Agencies



State Agencies

Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTTrans)

- Contact: [Key Personnel for your Area](#)
- Permit: [State Highway Access and Work Permit](#)
- [Permits](#)
- [Vermont Right of Way Spatial Hub](#)

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

- Contact: [Find a Community Assistance Specialist](#)
- Permit: [ANR/LURB Online Services Portal](#)
- [Permit Navigator](#)

Vermont Division of Historic Preservation

- Contact: 802-461-6191
- Form: [Historic Preservation Project Review Cover Form](#)


Electric Entities

Vermont Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Contact: 802-635-2331
[Website](#)

Green Mountain Power Corp
Contact: 888-835-4672
[Website](#)

Washington Electric Cooperative
Contact: 802-223-5245
[Website](#)

Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
Contact: 802-244-7678
[CPPSA Website](#)
[Member Utilities](#)



National Register of Historic Places – Historic Districts


Barre Downtown Historic District	Montpelier Historic District
Battery Street Historic District	Montpelier Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Battery Street Historic District (Boundary Increase)	Newport Downtown Historic District
Brownington Village Historic District	Peacham Corner Historic District
City Hall Park Historic District	Plainfield Village Historic District
Crystal Lake Falls Historic District	Shelburne Village Historic District
Currier Park Historic District	South Union Street Historic District
Darling Estate Historic District	South Willard Street Historic District
Downtown Hardwick Village Historic District	St. Johnsbury Main Street Historic District

Rail Operators²

Vermont Rail System
Contact: Mark FitzGerald
Property Management Section Chief
802-461-5971
mark.fitzgerald@vermont.gov
[Website](#)

Genesee & Wyoming Inc.
Contact: Crystal Galbreath
Real Estate Manager
904-596-7782
gwappswest@gwrr.com
[Utility Occupancies](#)

Canadian Pacific Railway
Contact: Kyle Spree
Manager Public Works
Kyle.spree@cpkcr.com
[Permit Application](#)



² List is of agencies/entities across the projects and is not exhaustive

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Technical Assistance

A list of the review or permitting Agencies for each type of clash identified is included. RSM will meet 1:1 with ISPs, as needed, to identify proper permits, submission materials, timelines and compliance.

Environmental Impacts: ESAPTT

Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) for BEAD

Summary: GTA will use ESAPTT, NTIA’s Salesforce based environmental screening tool, to identify categorical exclusions (CatEX), facilitate document exchange, and expedite NEPA Approvals

How to use: GTA will upload completed questionnaires, upload environmental documents, track permits, and receive automated NEPA approvals for BEAD projects in an online platform integrated with NTIA’s Grants Portal.

View [NEPA for BEAD](#) resources, including an ESAPTT demo webinar

Source: [Streamlined Environmental Review & Permitting for Broadband: A Roadmap](#)

The screenshot displays the ESAPTT Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Grant Projects', 'Reports & Dashboards', and 'More'. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation bar, a welcome message 'Welcome, Bryan' is shown. The main content area is titled 'ESAPTT Portal' and includes a brief description of the tool's purpose. Below this, there are 'Quick Links' for 'NTIA NEPA Guidance', 'BEAD General T&C', and 'NTIA ESAPTT User Guide'. The dashboard features several key metrics and reports:

- Environmental Screening (State-Wide):**
 - Active NEPA Projects by Status:** A donut chart showing 15 total records, categorized by NEPA Screening Status: Not Started, Pending NTIA Review, Revisions Required, Additional NEPA Rev., and Approved.
 - Tribal Notification Upload Complete:** A table listing projects with columns for Project Name, ADR, Grant Project, Grant P., and NOO. Projects include '1 CAT Ex and NO EC', '310 CERPO Escalation & Approval', and '310 FPO Escalation & Approval'.
 - Average Screening Approval Time (Days):** A large digital display showing 4.2 days.
- Permitting Tracking (State-Wide):**
 - Average Permit Acceptance Timelines:** A horizontal bar chart showing timelines for Army Corps of Engine, Clean Water Act Sect., and Endangered Species A.
 - Average Permit Authorization Timelines:** A horizontal bar chart showing timelines for Army Corps of Engine, Clean Water Act Sect., and Endangered Species A.
 - Permitting Tracking Records by Status:** A donut chart showing 10 records, with a status indicator for 'Not Started'.

Environmental Impacts: ESAPTT Questionnaire

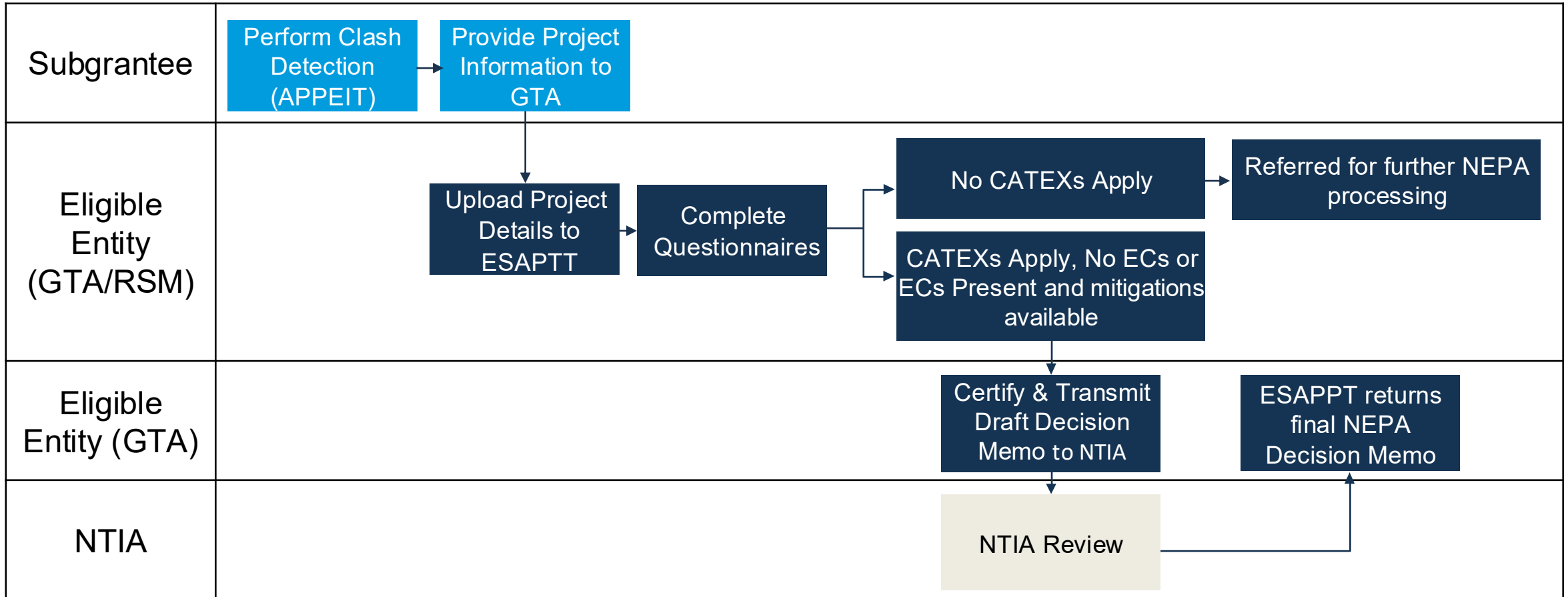
NTIA March ESAPTT Questionnaire			
Categorical Exclusions			
Please answer the following questions to eliminate the Categorical Exclusions that do not apply to this project. You will then have the opportunity to select from the remaining potentially applicable Categorical Exclusion (s).			
QUESTION/STATEMENT	SELECTION	WHAT IS THE QUESTION ASKING	WHAT IS
3.3.2.3 Be in or near the original pole location(s)?	Yes/No	Checks if new poles will have visual consistence. based on location	Site consist
3.3.2.4 Occur within the existing Right of Way?	Yes/No	Checks if work will occur within areas that are less sensitive	CatEx eli
3.3.3 Will any of the actions listed in 3.3.1 take place outside Rights of Way?	Yes/No	Checks if work will occur within areas that are less sensitive	If addition
3.3.3.1 If outside Rights of Way, will action(s) be adjacent to Right of Way, new road, or easement?	Yes/No	Checks if work will occur within areas that are less sensitive	Proximity
Existing buildings, roads, airfields, grounds, equipment, and other facility modifications:			
3.4.1 Select all actions applicable with the proposed project scope:	(Select Multiple)	What actions are planned for buildings/facilities?	Scope of
	Exterior renovation, addition, repair, alteration, or demolition Internal renovations or additions General minor renovations and/or additions Purchase, lease, or use of existing facilities (or a portion thereof) Conducting new activities or operations in existing structures Installing, operating, maintaining, retrofitting, upgrading, repairing, removing, and/or replacing instruments Collocating equipment on instruments, structures, or buildings Changes to existing telecommunication facilities (including upgrades, changes, or additions) Acquisition, installation, operation, and/or removal of communication systems Close facilities, decommission equipment, or temporarily discontinue use of facilities or equipment		
3.4.2 Will the actions listed in 3.4.1 result in a change in the functional use or operations of real property?	Yes/No	Evaluates if the activities will impact the day-to-day operations of land or permanent structures	Functional
3.4.3 Will changes to telecommunication sites and structures require new physical disturbances or fencing of less than 50 feet?	Yes/No	Checks amount of fencing or new	Minor physical impact

Technical Assistance

RSM will send the questionnaire to each ISP. The questionnaire will collect all relevant information to comply with the ESAPTT requirement for identifying and tracking federal permits and reviews.

Environmental Screening Process Flow

ESAPTT will help automate and expedite portions of the environmental screening review and expedite NTIA NEPA approvals for BEAD projects.



Refine Projects with Best Management Practices

Project teams can use APPEIT outputs and NTIA’s Best Management Practices (BMP) to avoid permits and environmental resources and minimize or mitigate potential impacts.



Design projects to avoid federal permits, which may eliminate potential application review and processing delays

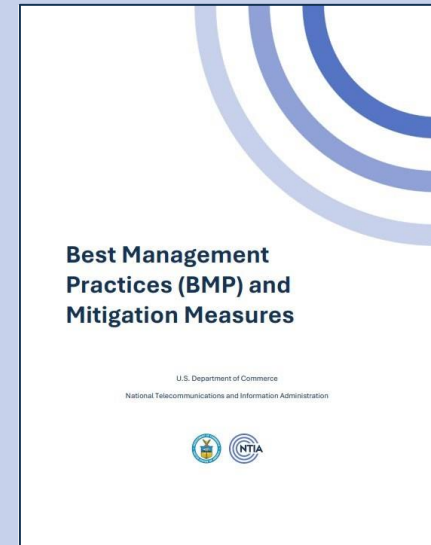
- Consider route alterations to avoid permits on federal lands, when possible. ([Section 1.7](#))
- Seek to conduct work in an existing right-of way. ([Section 1.1](#))



Design projects to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential impacts to protected environmental resources, which can enable NEPA categorical exclusion and support access to other streamlined review options

- Where possible, avoid building in wetlands. Consider deployment techniques to limit impacts. ([Section 1.5](#))
- Avoid critical habitats of Endangered Species and consider mitigation measures. ([Section 1.6](#)) Where possible, scope projects that qualify for [NTIA’s “No Effect” list](#).
- Avoid impacts to historic properties and cultural resources. ([Section 1.8](#)) Where possible, utilize the streamlined [Program Comment Process](#).

For more information, refer to **NTIA’s Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures Document**.



[Download Here](#)

User tip: Data layers in NTIA’s online [Permitting and Environmental Information Application](#) are linked to relevant BMP resource sections

Next Steps

RSM will be providing technical assistance at every step of the way.

01

Download the APPEIT Project package and begin to identify clash locations

02

Generate a draft list of permits and reviews required for construction

03

Review Best Management Practices (BMP) and Mitigation Measures


04

Consult with GTA and RSM to finalize list of required reviews and permits

Questions & Answers

New CatEx Approved to Support BEAD

NTIA announced 30 new categorical exclusions established to support NEPA reviews for broadband infrastructure deployments funded by NTIA grant programs.




Administrative Actions

i.e., Personnel and software development



Real Property/Facility Actions

i.e., Maintenance of facilities and abatement of hazardous materials from existing facilities



Operational Actions

i.e., Research and new construction or improvement of temporary buildings

For the full list of NTIA's Categorical Exclusions, please view the [Federal Register Notice](#).

Environmental Screening: Supporting Documentation

In addition to a detailed project description and mapping that describes and includes all elements of a BEAD project, subgrantees will need to supply the following documentation:

- Consultation supporting Endangered Species Act reviews, including [USFWS Information and Planning Consultation \(IPaC\)](#) output, identifying if there are threatened or endangered species or critical habitat in the vicinity of your project. Provide NTIA with Section 7 Documentation.
- Consultation supporting National Historic Preservation Act reviews, including State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) letter or other evidence of Section 106 completion.
- [Wetlands map](#) from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory with your project overlain to show the project's relationship to wetlands or waterways.
- Other relevant environmental screening information, which may include:
 - Floodplain map from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Service Center with your project overlain to show if and where your project falls in the flood zone, if applicable.
 - Information from screenings necessary to identify other Extraordinary Circumstances, as identified in ESAPTT.

Historic Preservation Impacts: Section 106

Section 106 Delegation Memo

Summary: The memo allows recipients to initiate Section 106 consultations and work directly with State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs), in some conditions.

How to use: Subgrantees must include a copy of the memorandum with their submission to the SHPO and provide NTIA with contact details of the authorized representative who will prepare Section 106 documentation.

View the [Authorization of IFA Grant Recipients to initiate Section 106 Consultation for NTIA Funded Projects](#)

Source: [Streamlined Environmental Review & Permitting for Broadband: A Roadmap](#)

Technical Assistance

RSM will provide the results of the Section 106 evaluation and support the upload of the appropriate documents and/or consultations with SHPO officers, as needed.

Local Permitting - Challenges & Strategies

WHAT IS LOCAL PERMITTING?

Local permitting may include permits, authorizations, easements, and right of way applications required from towns, counties, states, and other municipal government

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Effective permitting at the local level supports local infrastructure, integrates citizen voices into design, and protects works and enhances community safety

UTILITY COORDINATION

- Early engagement with utility owners can help project teams identify possible issues early, increase deployment efficiency, and save time and money
- Request a no-conflict letter or e-mail from utility owners as part of the permitting process
- Use State DOT offices for assistance with utility coordination and to facilitate communication with utility owners

CHALLENGES

- Local government challenges vary from resource constraints, technological limitations, and a workload increase due to the larger than average permitting requests
- Project team challenges contain issues such as jurisdictional difference, ready pole access, and access and infrastructure challenges due to shared infrastructure and property

Best Practices

- Utilize the NTIA's [permit mapping tool](#) to assist in determining which permits are necessary for your project area
- Collaborate with the NTIA, GTA, and appropriate permitting agency to determine if [Categorical Exclusions](#), [Environmental Assessments](#), or [Environmental Impact Statements](#) are necessary for NEPA compliance
- Determine if the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation \(ACHP\)'s Program Comment](#) process is applicable to streamline NHPA Section 106 reviews
- Engage early and schedule consultations with the appropriate agencies to significantly reduces delays for permit approvals
- Coordinate with state and local agencies as well as federal – GTA can help facilitate these discussions; interagency collaboration is highly encouraged
- Ensure that permit applications (most federal agencies use the [SF-299](#)) are thoroughly completed prior to submission to the agency

Additional NEPA and NHPA Resources

[Environmental & Historical Preservation and Climate Resiliency Preparation Checklist](#)

[NEPA and Climate Resiliency Webinar](#)

[What is Permitting?](#)

[Environmental & Historic Preservation Checklist for BEAD](#)

[Environmental & Historic Preservation Factsheet](#)

[National Historic Preservation Act \(NHPA\) Consultation Process Fact Sheet](#)

[Permitting Best Practices: Case Studies Examples and Best Practices of Streamlining Permitting](#)

[Wetland Regulatory Authority Fact Sheet](#)

[Internet for All Webinar Series - Permitting 101](#)

[Endangered Species Act \(ESA\) Section 7 Consultations Fact Sheet](#)

[Permitting Needs Assessment](#)

[NEPA Review: Environmental Assessments](#)

[NEPA Review: Categorical Exclusions](#)

[NBAM Training Series: NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Application](#)

[NEPA: Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance](#)

[Permitting and Environmental Information Application Mapping Tool](#)

[The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Program Comment for Federal Communications Projects](#)

[NEPA Review: Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance \(effective March 2024\)](#)

[Smart Start - How to Plan and Prepare for National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Compliance for BEAD](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) NEPA for BEAD Addendum](#)

[Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance](#)

[Notice of Administrative Record for Newly Adopted NEPA Categorical Exclusions](#)

[NOTICE OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS](#)

[NOTICE OF NEWLY ADOPTED NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS](#)

[Best Management Practices \(BMP\) and Mitigation Measures](#)

[Local Permitting Importance, Challenges, and Strategies](#)

Environmental Impacts: LEO

Because “LEO Capacity Subgrants” do not fund a defined portion of the transmission network in the same way land-based systems are funded, NTIA is not taking a federal interest in this transmission infrastructure. Moreover, NTIA has minimal involvement with the installation of LEO satellite dishes and communications infrastructure on private structures receiving such service.

What consumer premise infrastructure and activities are exempt from NEPA as LEO Satellite and Fixed Wireless Access Equipment?

EXEMPT: Individual subscriber or independent third-party installation of consumer-owned, over-the-air reception devices (including satellite dishes and parabolic antennas) and routers and modems.

EXEMPT: The purchase, storage, installation and use by consumers of antennas, receivers, routers, modems, interior and exterior wireless access points, switches, cabling, network equipment, servers, radios, repeaters, and premise equipment, located on the private consumer premises.

PROCESS:

- GTA will upload final proposal data on all BEAD Subgrant Projects to ESAPTT to create NEPA Project Records.
- The State’s NEPA Specialist will identify excluded satellite projects within the system, which will document the determination.

Source: [Streamlined Environmental Review & Permitting for Broadband: A Roadmap](#)

Environmental Screening Process Flow

ESAPTT will help automate and expedite portions of the environmental screening review and expedite NTIA NEPA approvals for BEAD projects.

