
PART 2, CHAPTER 7

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

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PART 2, CHAPTER 7

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

7.1 OVERVIEW AND PROCEDURE

This chapter is applicable to Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) only. The Affected Environment section of the EIS provides a concise description of the existing social, economic, and environmental setting for the area affected by all reasonable alternatives for the project. This section should contain a general description for the entire project area rather than a separate description for each proposed alternative. Existing conditions for issues/resources in the area, as described in [Part 2 of the PD&E Manual](#), should be included as subsections in the Affected Environment section. Discussion in this section should be in proportion to the significance of the impacts addressed in the Environmental Consequences section of the EIS.

Socially, economically, and environmentally sensitive locations or features in the proposed project impact area (e.g., neighborhoods, parks, hazardous material sites, historic resources, wetlands) should be identified on exhibits and briefly described in the text. Certain sensitive resource locations should be protected from being specifically identified (e.g., archeological sites, threatened or endangered species locations).

The discussion should be focused on issues, data, and values which will have a bearing on possible impacts, mitigation measures, and on the selection of an alternative. Photographs, illustrations, and other graphics should be used with text to provide a clear understanding of the area and the important issues. Information for this section can come from various sources including but not limited to previous studies (planning, feasibility, or corridor studies), Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Programming Screen, local knowledge, agency scoping, field reviews, technical documents, and public involvement. When possible, some of the information for this section can be collected and drafted before the Project Development and Environment Study begins.

7.2 REFERENCE

23 CFR Part 771 – Environmental Impact and Related Procedures

40 CFR §§ 1500-150

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, October 30, 1987.
Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f)
Documents, FHWA Technical Advisory T6640.8A

Florida Department of Transportation. Efficient Transportation Decision Making Manual.
Topic No. 650-000-002

7.3 HISTORY

12/29/2003, 1/15/2008