

---

## **PART 2, CHAPTER 8**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

8.1 OVERVIEW AND PROCEDURE.....	8-1
8.2 REFERENCES.....	8-3
8.3 HISTORY .....	8-3

## PART 2, CHAPTER 8

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OR IMPACTS

### 8.1 OVERVIEW AND PROCEDURE

This chapter describes the preparation of the Impacts section of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Environmental Consequences section of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). **Chapters 9 through 30** in [Part 2 of this Manual](#) contain guidance on evaluating impacts to issues/resources most commonly encountered during Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) projects. Each issue/resource evaluated is documented in the Impacts section of an EA or the Environmental Consequences section of an EIS. For the purpose of this chapter, both of these sections will be referred to as the Impacts section. See [Part 1, Chapter 6, Environmental Assessment](#) or [Part 1, Chapter 8, Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#) to determine which issue/resources to include in this section.

In general, the Impacts section should provide sufficient detail to support the conclusions. The detail provided in an EIS may at times, be more specific and precise due to the nature of the document and impacts. For an EA, the detail provided to determine no significant impact is much different from the detailed evaluation requirement when there is a significant impact (EIS). An EIS therefore tends to contain more information and provides more in-depth discussion of environmental issues and impacts.

For both documents (EAs and EISs), the Impacts section provides the scientific and analytic basis for the comparison of project alternatives. Each issue/resource subheading in the Impacts section must describe the potential impacts of the proposed project and the alternatives evaluated. The document should make full use of charts, tables, maps, and other graphics illustrating comparisons between the alternatives and their respective impacts (i.e., costs, residential displacements, noise impacts, etc.). Impacts that can be mitigated should be discussed.

It is recommended that the Impacts section of an EA or EIS ensure:

1. The document provides sufficient information on the environmental studies, major assumptions made, and supporting information on the validity of the methodology;
2. The document provides sufficient information (results of analysis) to establish the reasonableness of the conclusions reached regarding the recommended or preferred alternative and the project impacts;

3. The document provides a description of mitigation measures, where applicable. A commitment may be needed in the Environmental Document.
  - a. For a Draft EIS (DEIS) mitigation measures should be discussed for each reasonable alternative
  - b. For a Final EIS (FEIS), mitigation measures should be identified for the preferred alternative.

Pursuant to **40 CFR § 1502.16**, the Impacts section of an **EIS** must include discussion of the following:

1. The environmental impacts of the alternatives including the proposed action;
2. Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented;
3. The relationship between short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity;
4. Any irreversible or irretrievable commitments or resources which would be involved in the proposal should it be implemented.

Pursuant to **40 CFR § 1502.16**, an **EIS** must ensure that the impacts discussion provides the following information:

1. Direct effects and their significance;
2. Indirect effects and their significance;
3. Possible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of federal, regional, state, and local (and in the case of a reservation, Indian tribe) land use plans, policies, and controls for the area concerned;
4. The environmental effects of alternatives including the proposed action;
5. Energy requirements and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures;
6. Natural or depletable resource requirements and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures;

7. Urban quality, historic and cultural resources, and the design of the built environment, including the reuse and conservation potential of various alternatives and mitigation measures;
8. Means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

## **8.2 REFERENCES**

23 CFR Part 771 – Environmental Impact and Related Procedures.

40 CFR §§ 1500-1508.

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.

## **8.3 HISTORY**

12/10/2003, 1/16/2008