Introduction

A Re-evaluation is a revisiting of the environmental analysis on both federal actions and state funded projects. Re-evaluations document changes in design, project limits, project scope, new or modified laws and regulations, circumstances or project area changes, other new information affecting the project, and consultation with the Office of Environmental Management (OEM). The purpose of a re-evaluation is to determine whether the original environmental analysis is still valid and whether the project's environmental impacts have changed significantly. The re-evaluation process may involve updating the environmental analysis, preparing a new environmental document, or making changes to the project to mitigate its environmental impacts.

Procedure

Location Design Concept Acceptance (LDCA) finalizes a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) study and authorizes the final design phase within one year of the date it was granted and if no other changes have occurred that would otherwise require a Re-evaluation.

Re-evaluations are performed by the District. Consultants or Design Build Firms are unable to perform a full Project Re-evaluation, however, they can prepare information to support the project re-evaluation.

Re-evaluations are necessary as follows:

1. For design changes resulting in new or additional impacts. These may require agency consultation or new public involvement.

2. When requesting federal-aid authorization for the ROW or Construction phase, if not previously authorized within one year of LDCA.

3. For project changes due to changes in law, the passage of time, or changes in resource/issue status.

4. When a project with a previously approved NEPA Document changes to state funded only and federal project funds were not previously expended.

Documentation includes using **Statewide Environmental Project Tracker (SWEPT)** to complete the ***Re-evaluation Form*** (see ***Figure 13-2*** or ***Figure 10-4 of the PD&E Manual***). Information supporting the Re-evaluation should be submitted with the Re-evaluation Form and uploaded to the project file in SWEPT.

If OEM approval is not required, the District approving authority or designee electronically signs the form using the SWEPT tool. If OEM approval is required, the Director of OEM (or designee) approves the Re-evaluation by signing the ***Re-evaluation Form*** electronically in SWEPT.

For federal oversight projects, upon receipt of the signed **Re-evaluation Form**, the District Environmental Office will notify other phase managers and provide the date of the signed Re-evaluation on the ***Status of Environmental Certification for Federal Project*** (see ***Figure 13-3*** of the ***PD&E Manual***), which is required as part of the contract file.

Design Project Manager Responsibilities

Coordination is critical to avoid unnecessary project delays. It is important for District staff to coordinate with OEM and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) or Transportation Planning Organizations (TPO) so that all projects meet planning consistency requirements by the time Environmental Certification is needed. Planning consistency requires the identification of funding for the entire projects next phase in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Cost Feasible Plan (CFP) LRTP, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and/or State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For more planning consistency

requirements refer to the **Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) Program Management Handbook.**

Design Project Managers should be aware that major changes to the project scope can impact production schedules, as these changes may require additional environmental analysis. The effects of major design changes on the project schedule should be considered prior to approving such changes since this can lead to project delays if not identified and addressed appropriately. Design Project Managers should, whenever possible, minimize project changes that could impact previously coordinated avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts, or commitments made during the PD&E phase. Project Managers should recognize that changes may require additional interagency coordination/consultation or public involvement, as well as the identification of new impacts requiring additional evaluation.