Classification and Certification Process

Mackenzie Foss
Environmental Clearance Coordinator
fossm3@michigan.gov

Mike Belligan
Environmental Clearance Coordinator
belliganm@michigan.gov

Environmental Clearance Coordinators

- Carla Ahlschwede
  - Southwest and University
- Dana Dake
  - Bay and Grand
- Mackenzie Foss
  - Superior
- Mike Belligan
  - North
- Stan Reinke
  - Metro
Environmental Coordinators’ Role

- Follow FHWA and NEPA guidelines
- Ensure compliance of mitigation measures
- Classify and Certify Categorical Exclusions
- Communicate with all members involved throughout the process

Steps

1. Receive a job from PM or through Job Net
2. Send PM questions and map scope of work
3. Send out to specialists for study
4. Attend project meetings
5. Review project Plans and Proposals
6. Create Classification and Certification documents
Tools of the Trade

- PMs
- ECO
- JobNet
- ProjectWise
- Planisware

Mapping Projects

- Use ArcGIS to map projects
- Contains over 150 environmental datasets
- Gives specialists an idea of what is in the project area
- Look at project location with 500 foot buffer
Review by Specialists

Specialists review all projects that may cause environmental impact.

Specialists will reach out to PMs.

May provide “If/Then” statement and mitigation for project.

If the scope of work changes or area of work extended, a project MAY require a restudy and delay in the project schedule.

Environmental Classification

- Given after all Specialists approved project
- ROW/Design Phase
- Mitigation measures listed in document
  - Noted in plans/proposal
  - Special Provisions
  - Permits
  - Restricted Work Areas
Right-of-Way Acquisition

- Once Environmental Classification occurs, Real Estate may proceed with purchasing property.
- The Classification document will contain a list of properties that can **not** be purchased for environmental reasons.

Environmental Certification

- **Construction Phase**
- Occurs prior to OEC meeting
- All mitigation items are included in the plans
- All areas of concern are avoided
How to involve the Coordinators:

Plans Coordinators Should Receive:
- Base Plans
- Plan Review Plans
- ROW Plans
- QA/QC Plans
- OEC Plans
- Final Plans

Meetings Coordinators Should Attend:
- Early Scoping
- Scope Verification
- Base Plan
- Plan Review
- OEC
- Pre-Construction

Reminders

CERTIFICATION DOES NOT HAPPEN IF QA/QC PLANS DON'T REFLECT CLASSIFICATION DOCUMENT
OEC MEETINGS CAN ONLY PROCEED IF CERTIFICATION IS COMPLETE
ROW PHASE IS DEPENDENT ON COMPLETION OF CLASSIFICATION
OBLIGATION OF FEDERAL AID IS DEPENDENT ON COMPLETION OF CLASSIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION
Thank You!