

BEAD Permitting Webinar

Indiana Broadband Office

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Meet the Presenters



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Agenda

- 1 Introductions
- 2 Webinar Objectives
- 3 Roadmap & Permitting Overview
- 4 Identifying Required Permits / Ready Platform
- 5 ESAPTT: NEPA & SHPO Approvals
- 6 Next Steps
- 7 Q&A

Webinar Objectives

1. Identify the Subgrantee's responsibilities for identifying and obtaining the BEAD Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) approvals and permits necessary for project compliance
2. Provide an overview of the technical assistance that will be provided to Subgrantees through IBO 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 Subgrantees

Milestone	Phase
Familiarize with NEPA requirements and planned approach to compliance	Pre-Proposal
Provide a narrative about your organization's plan to adhere to the Environmental and Historic Preservation requirements of BEAD	Full-Proposal
Certify that, if awarded, your organization will provide sufficient information to conduct a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis	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, and retaining permit approvals for submission upon IBO or NTIA request.	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. To be reimbursed for these activities, subgrantees must complete a request form to the IBO pre-contract signing. See link below-

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/ed6b1284e3d9447e876edeeda3b986b0>

The Ready Platform

Subgrantees will use the Ready.net platform – portal.connecting.Indiana.com – to submit EHP documentation to IBO, including but not limited to, permits applied for, Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) questionnaire responses, and EHP milestone schedules.

Permitting Information






[↓ Download Permits](#)

#	Permit Category	Permit Name	Governing Entity Type
1	Environmental	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Permit	State
2	ROW / Utility	ROW Access	Local
3	ROW / Utility	ROW Access	Local
4	ROW / Utility	ROW Access	Local
5	ROW / Utility	ROW Access	Local
6	ROW / Utility	ROW Access	Local
7	ROW / Utility	ROW Access	State
8	ROW / Utility	ROW Access, county ditches/drains	Local
9	Environmental	ROW Access, county ditches/drains	Other
10	ROW / Utility	ROW Access, county ditches/drains	Local

ESAPTT Project Summary and Description

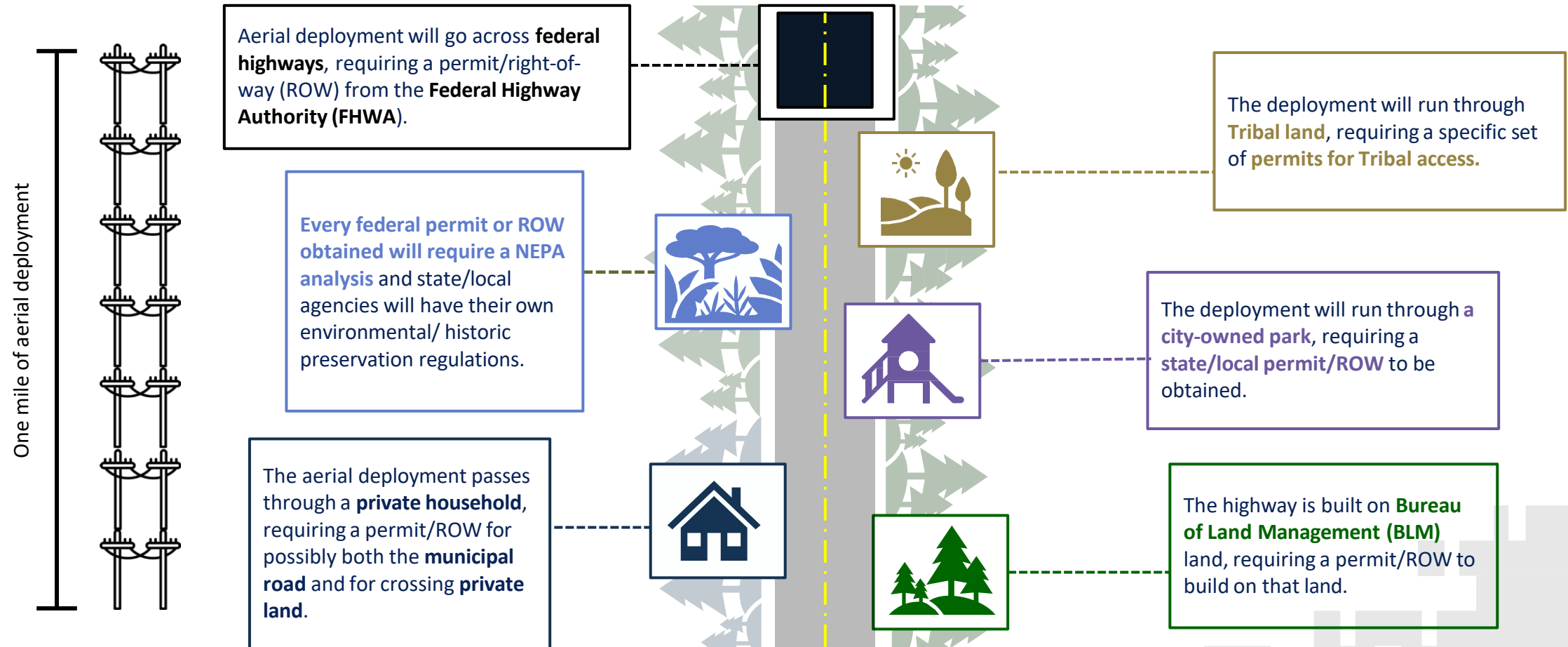
Required for each NEPA project area.

A detailed project description will be required that clearly describes:

-  **The BEAD Project ID and NEPA Project ID**
-  **What will be constructed** (e.g., a 150' monopole communication tower)
-  **Where work will occur by address** (e.g., 123 Main Street) or extent of project limits (e.g., the route the project will follow with access roads and staging areas used)
-  **The site and surrounding area** (e.g., developed land vs. open space; adjacent natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, or forests; and any protected lands), with maps and photographs as appropriate
-  **How the project will be implemented** including the extent of construction, such as area and depth of ground disturbance or estimated number of utility poles involved (e.g., installation of a concrete pad, an equipment shed, and an emergency generator with a 400-gallon above-ground fuel storage tank requiring 1-acre of disturbance at approximately 5 feet depth)

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)



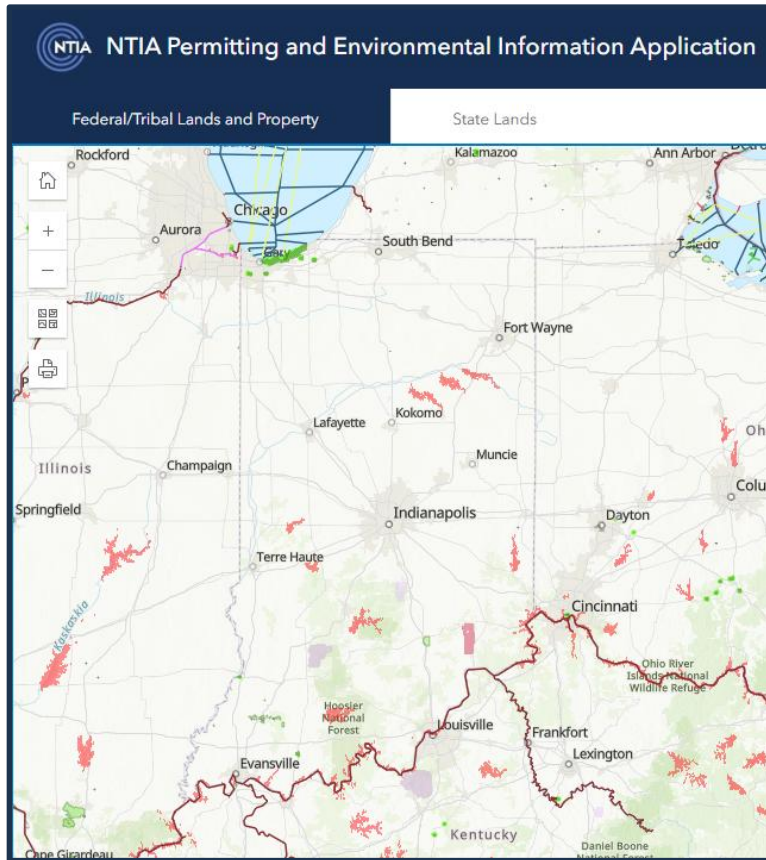
Regional & Local

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: IBO 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

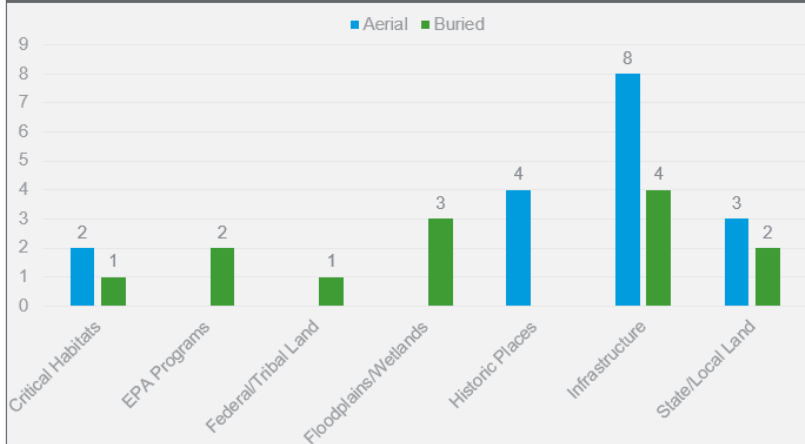
APPEIT Output: Project ID



The results compiled using [ArcGIS Pro Permitting and Environmental Information Tool \(APPEIT\)](#), and other GIS layers produced by the State of Indiana, should be used for informational purposes only. These results are 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.

APPEIT Identified Clashes by Layer Category



RSM's updated APPEIT Reference Index Table assigns layers to either area or entity names, which may result in multiple group values for a single layer. As a result, counts summarized by APPEIT Category should not be compared across datasets or interpreted as a true distribution. NTIA's Layer Category classifications were preserved, and additional state datasets were assigned to existing categories or, where necessary, classified under a new "State/Local Land" category.

Key Agencies to Contact

County Governments
Electric Company (Joint-Use Permit)
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
State or Local Transportation Department (Roadway ROW)
Rail Company/Operator

Technical Assistance

RSM will provide a summary of the clash detections and the contact information for key government agencies or utility owners that may need contacted for potential reviews or permits.


Identifying Permits: Contacting Relevant Agencies

Key Infrastructure Agencies

Electric Entities and Roadway Easement Agencies were identified using results from NTIA's APPEIT.

APPEIT Identified Electric Entities	APPEIT Identified Railroad or Base Name ¹
<p>Duke Energy Indiana, LLC Website</p> <p>Hendricks County Rural EMC Website</p>	<p>Conrail Railroad Likely Contact: CSX Transportation</p>

¹ List is of agencies/entities across the projects and is not exhaustive due to limitations of dataset.



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 to align on proper permits, submission materials, timelines, and compliance.

Environmental Impacts: ESAPTT

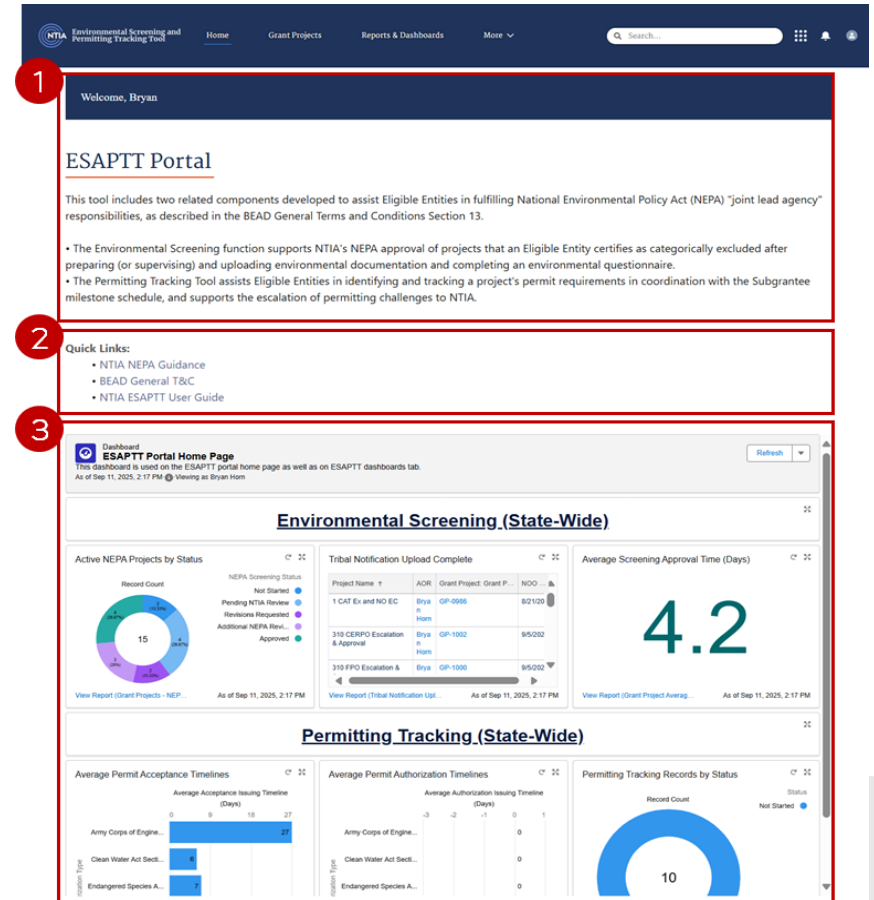
Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) for BEAD

Summary: IBO 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: IBO 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](#)



1 Welcome, Bryan

2 **ESAPTT Portal**
This tool includes two related components developed to assist Eligible Entities in fulfilling National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) "joint lead agency" responsibilities, as described in the BEAD General Terms and Conditions Section 13.

- The Environmental Screening function supports NTIA's NEPA approval of projects that an Eligible Entity certifies as categorically excluded after preparing (or supervising) and uploading environmental documentation and completing an environmental questionnaire.
- The Permitting Tracking Tool assists Eligible Entities in identifying and tracking a project's permit requirements in coordination with the Subgrantee milestone schedule, and supports the escalation of permitting challenges to NTIA.

3 **ESAPTT Portal Home Page**
This dashboard is used on the ESAPTT portal home page as well as on ESAPTT dashboards tabs.
As of Sep 11, 2025, 2:17 PM Viewing as Bryan Hom

Environmental Screening (State-Wide)

Active NEPA Projects by Status

NEPA Screening Status	Count
Not Started	15
Pending NTIA Review	0
Revisions Required	0
Additional NEPA Rev.	0
Approved	0

Tribal Notification Upload Complete

Project Name	AOR	Grant Project	Grant P.	NOO
1 CAT Ex and NO EC	Brya	GP-0095	82102	Hom
310 CERPO Escalation & Approval	Brya	GP-1002	95202	Hom
310 FPO Escalation & Approval	Brya	GP-1000	95202	Hom

Average Screening Approval Time (Days)

4.2

Permitting Tracking (State-Wide)

Average Permit Acceptance Timelines

Agency Type	Average Acceptance Issuing Timeline (Days)
Army Corps of Engine...	25
Clean Water Act Sect...	1
Endangered Species A...	1

Average Permit Authorization Timelines

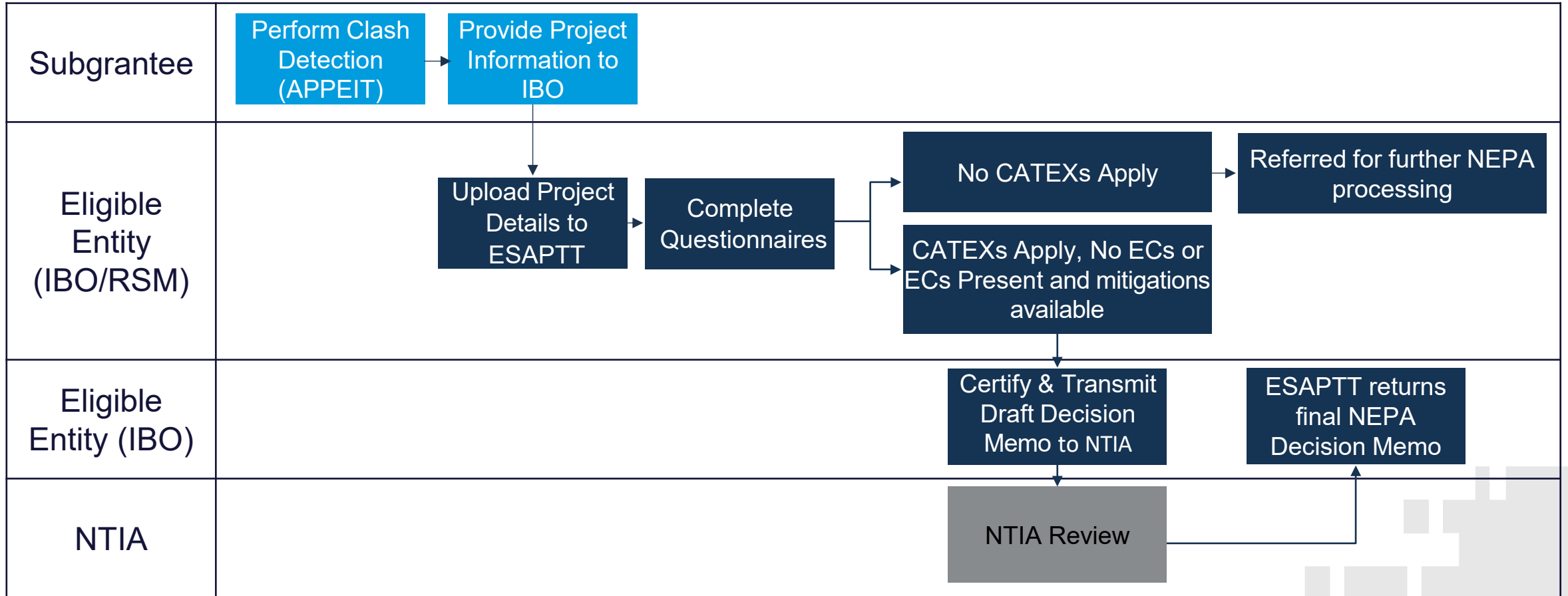
Agency Type	Average Authorization Issuing Timeline (Days)
Army Corps of Engine...	0
Clean Water Act Sect...	0
Endangered Species A...	0

Permitting Tracking Records by Status

Record Count: **10**

Environmental Screening Process Flow

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



Note: Requirements are subject to change with updated program guidance.

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.

Environmental Impacts: ESAPTT Questionnaire

Section 1: *

Proposed action occurs within an environmentally sensitive or unique geographic area of notable recreational, ecological, scientific, cultural, scenic, or aesthetic importance

Yes No

Section 1a: Optional

Attach a map identifying the resource(s) and relationship to the project (Optional)

Check if you plan to attach documentation:

Section 1b: Optional

Provide any additional information needed to explain or support your answer. (Optional)

Check if you plan to attach documentation:

Section 2: *

Proposed action may adversely impact species listed or proposed to be listed as Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.

Yes No

Section 2.a: *

Will the proposed project have adverse impacts on Endangered or Threatened Species and/or designated Critical Habitat (including Essential Fish Habitat)?

Yes No

Technical Assistance

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

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.

Source: NTIA

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

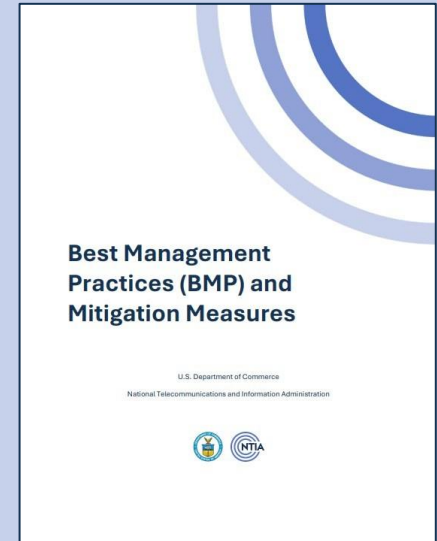
- Consider route alterations to avoid permits on federal lands, when possible. ([Section 1.7](#))
- Seek to conduct work in an existing right-of way. ([Section 1.1](#))



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

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

CHALLENGES

- Local government challenges vary from resource constraints, technological limitations, and a workload
- Project team challenges contain issues such as jurisdictional difference, ready pole access, and access and infrastructure challenges due to shared infrastructure and property
- Timing to submit application and receive approval may take longer than expected
- Authority to approve permits may be complicated by involvement of local elected officials

STRATEGIES

- Identify local government jurisdictions in your project areas early
- Identify permits, application requirements and approval processes and align with anticipated construction schedule
- Use existing relationships or subcontractors to establish connection with decision makers at local jurisdiction
- Research alternatives that will work for project area to discuss with local government as needed

Local Permitting - Utility Coordination & SB 502

UTILITY COORDINATION / POLE ATTACHMENTS

- 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
- IURC along with IBO for assistance with utility coordination and to facilitate communication with utility owners

SB 502 REQUIREMENTS

- Establishes a framework to streamline broadband pole attachments through defined timeliness and coordination between providers and pole owners.
- Requirements: Subgrantees must coordinate with pole owners and report pole attachment activity to IBO

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 IBO and RSM to finalize list of required reviews and permits

Questions & Answers