

Attachment 10D(1)

**Explanatory Note for DOI the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Report
May 2, 2011**

Attached is the Bureau of Indian Affairs' report to the Council on Environmental Quality, fulfilling Section 1609 reporting requirements for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The five funded programs are School Replacement (SR), Detention Centers (DC), School Improvement and Repair (MIR), Housing Improvement Program (HIP) and Indian Road Repair and Restoration (Roads). This report documents the progress on currently funded ARRA projects. No significant changes in funding have occurred this quarter. The NEPA reviews of all ARRA projects are now complete (See Table 1)

Table 1 Summary of NEPA Actions.

Category	Total NEPA actions	NEPA Actions Completed	Pending EAs	Pending CEs
SR	5	5	0	0
DC	4	4	0	0
MIR	102	102	0	0
HIP	103	103	0	0
Roads	379	379	0	0
TOTAL	593	593	0	0

Changes in ARRA projects

The previous quarterly report (January 1, 2011) included 682 ARRA funded projects covered by 595 NEPA actions. This quarter, the 682 ARRA funded projects are covered by 593 NEPA actions. This is because four previously listed HIP projects have been completed under two NEPA documents (See explanation below for rows 44 and 44b).

SR, DC and MIR Projects (rows 1-34)

The Office of Facilities Management and Construction is responsible for NEPA compliance for 113 ARRA projects under the SR, DC, and MIR programs. These 113 projects are covered by 111 NEPA actions. No changes have been made since the previous quarter. All NEPA reviews are complete.

HIP Projects (rows 34a-49)

The HIP manages the NEPA process in coordination with tribes receiving recovery funds for home construction projects. The current number of HIP projects is 190. These projects are covered by 103 NEPA actions.

The previous report listed three CEs pending for AVCP Inc. housing (row 35b). These are now complete; row 35b has been deleted and row 35 has been increased to show 13 CEs completed. All CE reviews are now complete.

The previous report also listed four EAs pending (row 44). Further NEPA review of these actions determined that only one EA was needed and that three of the EAs could be completed under a single CE. Row 44 has been reduced from four EAs to one EA, which is now complete. Row 44b has been increased from eight CEs to nine CEs, which are all complete.

Roads (rows 49a-60)

There are 379 Roads projects. CE reviews have been completed on all of these. No changes have been made since the previous quarter. All NEPA reviews are complete.

NEPA Benefits

MIR – Radio Tower Construction. (row 34)

The size of a proposed radio tower at the San Carlos Agency was reduced from an 80 foot-high free-standing tower to a five foot-high pole on an existing building. This significantly limited the visual intrusion into the area and also reduced the environmental analysis required from an EA to a CE.

Road Repair and Restoration. (row 52)

The spread of noxious weeds is a serious concern in the Rocky Mountain Region. All of the seven road projects required a noxious weed inventory as part of the NEPA review. The design features of each road project included weed inventories along the roads and, where necessary, eradication measures were implemented to curtail the spread of noxious weeds.

Facilities Construction at the Hunters Point Community School, Arizona (row 14)

Proposed construction includes removing an existing, non-historic school building located near the historic buildings, and constructing a new replacement building. Consultation with the Navajo Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) determined that two buildings at the Hunter’s Point School qualified for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A formal agreement was signed with the THPO and minor design changes were made to ensure the exterior visual elements of the proposed new school include appropriate materials and colors that enhance and compliment the visual setting and character of the historic buildings located on the school grounds.

Facilities Improvement and Repair Flandreau School, South Dakota (row 17)

Proposed improvements and repair include mechanical, electrical, architectural, civil and structural work both in the interior and on the exterior of 24 buildings. Consultation with the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined that eleven buildings at the Flandreau School qualified for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Nine of these buildings would be affected by the proposed work. Consultation with the SHPO is ensuring the historic characteristics are addressed, either through minor modification in plans or recovery of important historic elements. The school is also now pursuing more formal recognition of their historic structures.

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