

**U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Directorate of Safety, Health, and the Environment
Environmental Conservation and Restoration Division
NEPA Program Office**

Subject: CEQ Proposed Guidance for Categorical Exclusions (71 FR 54816-54820)

The NEPA Program Office at the Aberdeen Proving Ground has the following comments to CEQ's proposed guidance for categorical exclusions:

1. CEQ should consider expanding exclusions to accommodate standard and recurring research, development, testing, and evaluation operations that do not precipitate significant environmental impacts.
2. CEQ should consider implementing a provisional categorical exclusion to address research, development, testing, and evaluation activities that support the outfitting of troops deployed in war zones.
3. Clarify the term "extraordinary circumstances" in regard to limiting the use of categorical exclusions" as mentioned in the second bullet point in the third column of 71 FR 54819.
4. Public involvement in establishing categorical exclusions may hinder mission-specific operations unique to certain federal agencies.