MN BEAD Program Environmental and Historic Preservation Impact Screening Questionnaire

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The purpose of the Environmental Impacts Section is to gain enough information from the Grantee to understand if the proposed project meets any NEPA Extraordinary Circumstances. If a project fits within a categorical exclusion, but also meets an extraordinary circumstance, then the project may be subject to further environmental review.

Complete environmental documentation must contain the following information, or a showing must be made as to why the information is not applicable. This document's organization should follow the major format and numbering system of these post-award filing requirements.

Awardees should email questions about the applicability of specific information requirements to the Minnesota OBD General Inbox: deed.broadband@state.mn.us

Subgrantee Name:

[If Applicable] Contractor Name:

Project Name and ID [Use the name ID assigned by OBD]:

2. Environmental Impacts

Environmental Impacts and Best Management Practices

2.1 Does the proposed project occur within an environmentally sensitive or unique geographic area of notable recreational, ecological, scientific, cultural, scenic, or aesthetic importance? If yes, describe the area—including the name of the owner or manager of the area.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.2 Navigate to the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website. Click on "Get Started" and define the project area. The following question relates to the species populated after defining the project area in IPaC. List the Endangered Species, Bald and/or Golden Eagles, and Migratory Birds populated from the project area in IPaC.

Note that as capacity is available, OBD staff will complete Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation on behalf of the Grantee to meet BEAD NEPA requirements.

2.3 Does the proposed project require the deployment of submarine or underwater cable?

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.4 Are you aware if the proposed project has the potential to adversely affect historic, archaeological, or cultural sites, including Native American Traditional Cultural Properties, properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? If yes, describe the potential impacts. **Do NOT describe the specific location of these sites.**

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.5 Are you aware if the proposed project has the potential to restrict access to and/or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian practitioners, or adversely affect the physical integrity of such religious sacred sites? If yes, describe the potential impacts.

◯ Yes ◯ No

Note that as capacity is available, OBD staff will complete the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation on behalf of the Grantee to meet BEAD NEPA requirements.

2.6 Will the proposed project occur in floodplains or involve significant changes to or effects on waterbodies, wetlands, floodplains, water quality, sole source aquifers, public water supply systems or state, local, or tribal water quality standards established under the Clean Water Act or the Safe Drinking Water Act? If yes, describe the potential impacts and submit a map as described in Question 2.2.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.7 Will the proposed project involve construction impacts on or near an active, inactive, or abandoned contaminated or hazardous waste site, or involving non-permitted generation transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of substances hazardous to human health or the environment? If yes, describe the potential impacts, including if the proposed project is consistent with an approved remediation plan for the site.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.8 Will the proposed project involve human exposure to ionizing or non-ionizing radiation or use of any radiation in excess of the Federal Communication Commission's established Maximum Permissible Exposure limits for human exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Energy fields? If yes, describe the potential impacts.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.9 Is the proposed project controversial because of the introduction or employment of unproven technology, highly scientifically uncertain or unique environmental effects, substantial disagreement over the possible size, nature, or effect on the environment, or likelihood of degrading already existing poor environmental conditions? If yes, describe the potential impacts.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.10 Will the proposed project violate a Federal, Tribal, state, or local law, regulation, policy, or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? If yes, describe the potential violation.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.11 Is the proposed size or scope of the project greater than normal for a project of its type? If yes, describe why the size or scope is greater than normal.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.12 Will the proposed project cause other significant effects on human health or the environment that have not been otherwise addressed? If yes, describe these significant effects.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.13 NTIA published the Best Management Practices (BMP) and Mitigation Measures document to help grantees avoid or minimize potential impacts during the construction, deployment, and operation of BEAD funded broadband projects. NTIA may require grantees to implement mitigations or follow BMPs as a condition of its NEPA review. BMPs may also be recommended as practicable or feasible during construction, deployment, and operation of the proposed project. Using the Internet for All BMP and Mitigation Measures document, list any mitigation commitments that will be used when completing the proposed project to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential environmental impacts. Include any special construction methods that would be used in/around agricultural lands, forest lands, grasslands, surface waters, or wetlands. Awardees can also list mitigation commitments not found on the Internet for All BMP and Mitigation Measure document.

2.14 Cumulative effects are effects on the environment that result from the incremental effects of project actions when added to the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Does the Grantee foresee any cumulative effects with the proposed project?

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.15 Forested Lands are defined as an upland area of land covered with woody perennial plants reaching a mature height of at least six feet tall with definite crown (closure of at least 10 percent). Grasslands are defined as lands covered by non-cultivated herbaceous (non-woody) vegetation predominated by perennial grasses and forbs. Describe any impacts from the proposed project to any forested lands or grasslands. State whether the project requires tree or brush clearing and if so, how much.

2.16 What are the anticipated noise sources during construction? Will the project comply with local noise ordinances to avoid noise impacts?

2.17 Sensitive receptors include residences, schools or day-care centers, hospitals or other health care facilities, places of worship, community centers, senior centers or nursing homes, libraries, playgrounds or parks, museums, concert halls, or other points of interest. Describe actions that will be taken to mitigate noise impacts to sensitive receptors.

2.18 Describe any air quality impacts that could occur to population centers, particularly sensitive receptors, and any mitigation actions to reduce impacts.

2.19 If a project may impact archeological resources or human burial sites, the State Historic Preservation Office may request an Unanticipated Archeological Discoveries Plan (UADP). These documents outline procedures to be followed in the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources or human remains during construction activities for the project. They are not project-specific documents. **Awardees are not required to provide a UADP to complete this questionnaire.** Has the Grantee prepared an unanticipated archaeological discoveries plan?

◯ Yes ◯ No

Waterways, Wetlands, and Stormwater Erosion Control

The following questions apply to all construction related activities in the project area. Answers should be consistent with the associated wetland and waterway maps.

The project area must be evaluated for the presence of wetlands and waterways. The Grantee may be responsible for acquiring state and federal wetland, waterway, or storm water permits to allow for the project to proceed.

2.20 If applicable, describe the methods that will be utilized to cross the waterways within the project area (open trenching, HDD installation). Also describe the methods used if separate waterway crossings are required for construction equipment. Lastly, describe the proposed area of land disturbance and vegetation removal at waterway crossings and how the site will be restored post construction. Include a description of the type of vegetation to be removed (e.g., shrub, forest), and if this vegetation removal will be temporary (allowed to regrow) or permanent (maintained as cleared).

2.21 Will your project result in permanent or temporary impacts to wetlands, temporary clear span bridges, or disturbance of navigable waterways, necessitating waterway and/or wetland permits be obtained from MN DNR?

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.22 Explain how project design and installation methods avoid and/or minimizes impact to wetlands to the greatest practicable extent.

2.23 Will any wetlands be open-cut trenched? If so, provide the size of the trench(es) (length, width, depth), where stockpiled soils will be placed, and how wetlands will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.24 If any part of the proposed project will be installed through directional boring, will associated bore pits occur outside of both wetlands and wetland indicator soils? If not, provide reasoning for why this would not occur.

◯ Yes ◯ No

2.25 If wetlands will be directionally bored, summarize a contingency plan for bore refusal or any inadvertent releases of drilling fluid (e.g., a frac-out).

2.26 Identify any wetlands in the project area that are considered sensitive and/or high-quality wetlands, including, but not limited to:

a. Any wetlands in or adjacent to an area of special natural resource interest (ASNRI).

b. Any of the following types: deep marsh, northern or southern sedge meadow not dominated by reed canary grass, wet or wet-mesic prairie not dominated by reed canary grass, fresh wet meadows not dominated by reed canary grass, coastal marsh, interdunal or ridge and swale complex, wild rice-dominated emergent aquatic, open bog, bog relict, muskeg, floodplain forest, and ephemeral ponds in wooded settings.

c. Any wetlands with high functional values based on factors such as abundance of native species and/or rare species, wildlife habitat, hydrological functions, etc.

2.27 Provide the number of wetlands and corresponding approximate square footage that would have the following as part of the project: construction-matting, temporary disturbance (grading, trenching, manholes, boreholes), temporary or permanent structures, permanent fill, forested wetland clearing.

Project Impact	Number of Wetlands	Wetland Area Impacted (sq. feet)	Notes
Construction-matting			
Temporary disturbances (grading, trenching, manholes, boreholes)			
Temporary structures			
Permanent structures			
Permanent Fill			
Forested wetland clearing			

2.28 Summarize the plan to mitigate erosion that results from ground disturbance activities, including the identification of specific erosion and sediment control details that will be utilized during and after construction.

2.29 If storm water runoff is expected in your project, summarize the permanent and temporary storm water management practices and technical rationale, separation distances of permanent storm water management practices from wells, and any other storm water management features.