

NRCS Field Office Compliance Strategy for Section 106 of the National Environmental Policy Act

In order to bring NRCS into full compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and any subsequent Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations, each field office is to follow this procedure:

When planned undertakings with an Area of Potential Effect (APE)** contain **historic properties 50 years of age or older** or planned undertakings are located **in sections with known cultural resources (see your "420" file)**, send to the NRCS State Office (Will Bowman, CRC) the following materials:

- An FSA photo, if available, of the section involved with the exact location of the undertaking and the APE outlined on the photo
- A photocopy of the area on the USGS quad where the undertaking is to be installed with the APE outlined
- A description of work to be done. Write your findings of the project's potential effect on historic properties located within the APE. If none are effected, tell why; if adversely effected, tell why.
- Photos of buildings **50 years of age and older** in the APE.
 - Acquire the age of each building from owner or operator.
 - Ask landowner or operator of any known history of the building(s) and include it in your write-up. Historic Context, such as architecture and engineering, can be determined from the photo by the SHPO.
 - Color or black and white prints and digital images with good resolution sent via e-mail are acceptable.
- Photo of site where undertaking is to be installed
- Photo of the site from the road in relation to nearby buildings if undertaking will block the view of a historic structure

*Historic properties are defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object that is 50 years of age or older and is listed in, or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**The APE is any area where construction may inflict damage to a historic structure or the view of such structure is impaired by the undertaking.

The Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations and District Conservationists, as line officers, will be held accountable for staff not following this policy and procedure. NRCS will produce a concise annual report on our activities through PRMS and performance outcomes that will be incorporated into a national report to the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.