

## 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 practices qualify as undertakings *with the potential to affect cultural resources* as defined and included in the "Conservation Practices Considered as Undertakings by NRCS" (in areas where soil excavation disturbance will exceed 6 inches in depth or *when historic properties\* 50 years of age or older* within the Area of Potential Effect (APE)\*\* will be negatively affected), send *the following materials* to the *Cultural Resources Specialist (CRS)* and NRCS State Office, Cultural Resources Coordinator (CRC) *via email*:

- *Conservation Plan maps of the section involved, with the exact location of the undertaking and the APE outlined on the photo, with Digital Orthophoto Quadrangle (DOQ) and USGS topographic quad backgrounds, saved as an image file (.jpg).*
- A narrative description of work to be done including approximate dimensions (length, width, and depth) of the *ground disturbance*. Write your findings of the project's potential effect on historic properties located within the APE. If none are affected, tell why; if adversely affected, 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 *State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)*.
  - Digital images with good resolution *should be sent via e-mail. Please consider file size when choosing the image resolution.*
- Photo of site where undertaking is to be installed.
- *If the undertaking will block the view of a historic structure, a photo of the site from the road in relation to nearby buildings.*

\* 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 *the area where an undertaking may inflict damage to a historic property or alter the characteristics or use of the property. This includes impairing the view of a historic property. The size of the APE is determined by the scale and nature of the undertaking.*

The Area Conservationists 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.