PY2025 ASHLAND COUNTY

CHIP

JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RECORD

FOR The CITY of ASHLAND and ASHLAND COUNTY

for Owner Rehabilitation and Owner Home Repair

Ohio Regional Development Corporation

200 Main Street, Annex Building, Coshocton, Ohio 43812

(740) 622-0529 phone (740) 622-8577 fax www.ordevelopment.com

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Categorical Exclusion Subject to Section 58.5 Worksheet

Grantee	**Ashland County**
Grant Number	**B-C-25-1AC-1; B-C-25-2AC-2**
Activity Name	**Private Owner Rehabilitation and Owner Home Repair**
Activity Location	**Ashland County**

Activity Description and Outcomes:

Ashland County partnering with the City of Ashland intends to complete 7 Private Owner Rehabilitations and 9 Home Owner Repairs under the PY2025 CHIP Program. Work will begin in 2026 and will be completed by February 28, 2028.

Determination:

☒ Categorical Exclusion Subject to Sec. 58.5 [per 24 CFR Section 58.35(a)]

☐ Categorical Exclusion, Subsequently **Exempt** (No compliance or mitigation required for any of the listed statutes or authorities) [per 24 CFR Section 58.34(a)(12)]

Preparer Name: **Scott Hillis**

Signature _____ Date: **3/2/2025**

List of Attachments

☒ Location Map
☐ Site Photographs
☐ Copies of other Environmental Analyses (if applicable) List:
☐ Other Relevant Correspondence and Notifications (if applicable) List:
☒ Statutory Checklist Supporting Documentation
☒ Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF)* Date: **Not required if project converts to "Exempt" per 24 CFR 58.34(a)(12)*
☒ Request for Release of Funds (RROF)* Date: **Or* Certification of Determination of Subsequent Exemption For a Categorical Exclusion Project *if project converts to "Exempt" per 24 CFR 58.34(a)(12)*
☒ Release of Funds (ROF) Date:
☐ Additional Documentation Describe:

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Statutory Checklist Instructions:

For each of the environmental laws and authorities listed below, determine the level of compliance required and provide a narrative explanation and list of supporting documentation. **The narrative must explain decision-making and compliance procedures**. Attach all supporting documentation to this worksheet.

Statutory Checklist

Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5	Compliance Required?	Explanation and List of Compliance Documentation
Historic Preservation Resources: State Historic Preservation Office HUD Historic Preservation	Yes	**Grantee will perform a Section 106 Review as part of a Tier 2 review for each site specific location when identified. Tier 2 documentation will be maintained in the individual project files.**
Floodplain Management Resources: Floodplain Maps Floodplain Administrators HUD Floodplain Management	Yes	**Grantee will perform floodplain compliance review as part of a Tier 2 review for each site specific location when identified. Tier 2 documentation will be maintained in the individual project files. Minor repairs or improvements to one family properties that do not meet the threshold for " substantial improvement" are exempt activities under 24 CFR Sec. 55.5(b)(10).**
Wetland Protection Resources: NRCS Web Soil Survey National Wetlands Inventory Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water US Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory (Permits) HUD Wetlands Protection	Yes	**Grantee will perform wetland compliance review as part of a Tier 2 review for each site specific location when identified. Tier 2 documentation will be maintained in the individual project files. As this project does not involve new construction or expansion of a building's footprint, no negative impact to wetlands is expected.**
Coastal Zone Management Resources: ODNR Office of Coastal Management	No	**Ashland County is approximately 20 miles from the nearest Coastal Zone Area. No impact to a Coastal Zone will occur from these projects.**

Statutory Checklist

Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5	Compliance Required?	Explanation and List of Compliance Documentation
Ohio Coastal Atlas Map Viewer HUD Coastal Zone Management		
Sole Source Aquifers Resources: Ohio EPA Sole Source Aquifers in Ohio HUD Sole Source Aquifers	**No**	**No Sole Source Aquifiers are located in Ashland County or any adjacent counties and therefore no impact upon Sole Source Aquafiers will occur.**
Endangered Species Resources: US Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 information Endangered Species in Ohio ODNR Environmental Review HUD Endangered Species	**Yes**	**The projects are not new construction nor enlargement of a building footprint and therefore no impact upon Endangered Species, flora and fauna is anticipated. However, based upon the scope of work, if an impact upon endangered species, flora or fauna is possible, a Tier 2 review will occur and Tier 2 documents will be maintained in individual project files.**
Wild and Scenic Rivers Resources: ODNR Scenic Rivers HUD Wild and Scenic Rivers	**Yes**	**The Mohican River is designated as a Scenic River and is located within Ashland County. The projects involve rehabilitation and repair of existing residential units. No impact upon Wild or Scenic Rivers is anticipated. However, Grantee will perform a Tier 2 review for each site specific location when identified, if an impact upon a Wild and Scenic River is possible. Tier 2 documentation will be maintained in the individual project files.**
Air Quality Resources: US EPA Green Book Ohio EPA State Implementation Plans HUD Air Quality	**No**	**The projects are rehabilitation or repair of existing residential units and do not include new construction or conversion of land use facilitating the development of public, commercial, or industrial facilities of five or more dwelling units. The projects will not impact air quality. All work will be done in a Lead Safe manner. Rehabilitation projects will undergo Lead Risk Assessments if the home was built prior to 1978. All projects involving Lead paint disturbance will undergo Lead Clearance Testing.**
Farmland Protection Resources: NRCS Farmland Protection Policy Act HUD Farmlands Protection	**No**	**The projects are rehabilitation or repair of existing residential units and do not involve new construction or the conversion of land use. There will be no impact on Farmlands.**

Statutory Checklist

Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5	Compliance Required?	Explanation and List of Compliance Documentation
Noise Abatement and Control Resources: HUD Noise Abatement and Control HUD Noise Guidebook HUD Day/Night Noise Level Electronic Assessment Tool HUD Sound Transmission Classification Assessment Tool ODOT Traffic Monitoring Ohio Airport Information Airport Master Records and Reports PUCO/ORDC Railroad Information System Federal Railroad Administration Query by Location tool	Yes	This project does not involve new construction of housing therefore no noise assessment is necessary. The projects involve rehabilitation or repair of existing residential units. There will be no impact upon Noise levels. Grantee will perform a Tier 2 review for each site specific location when identified, to document the project is not within 1000 feet of a major roadway, 3,000 feet of a railroad, or 15 miles of a military or civil airfield. Tier 2 documentation will be maintained in the individual project files.
Airport Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones Resources: Ohio Airport Information HUD Airport Hazards Airport Master Records and Reports	Yes	Grantee will perform a Tier 2 review for each site specific location when identified. This will include assessment of civil and military airports, Airport Clear Zones and Accident potential zones. Tier 2 documentation will be maintained in the individual project files.
Explosive and Flammable Operations Resources: HUD Explosive and Flammable Facilities US EPA NEPAssist US EPA Envirofacts HUD Choosing an Environmentally Safe Site Acceptable Separation Distance Calculator Acceptable Separation Distance Guidebook	No	This project involves rehabilitation or repair of existing residential units, not development, new construction, or rehabilitation that will increase residential densities or conversion; nor a hazardous facility therefore no coordination is required or necessary for explosive or flammable operations..
Site Contamination Resources: HUD Site Contamination US EPA NEPAssist US EPA Envirofacts Ohio EPA Asbestos Program Ohio EPA Notification of Demolition and Renovation	No	This project involves rehabilitation or repair of existing residential units, not development, construction or rehabilitation that will increase residential densities or conversion; therefore no coordination is required or necessary for site contamination.

Statutory Checklist

Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5	Compliance Required?	Explanation and List of Compliance Documentation
Ohio Tank Tracking & Environmental Regulations HUD Choosing an Environmentally Safe Site		
Environmental Justice Resources: HUD Environmental Justice US EPA Environmental Justice US EPA EJSCREEN	**No**	**These projects will cause no adverse impact upon Environmental Justice. The projects will benefit low to moderate income populations by assisting with rehabilitation or repair of their residential units.**

24 CFR Section 58.6 Requirements

Airport Runway Clear Zones and Clear Zones Notification
[24 C.F.R. Part 51.303(a)(3)]

Does the project involve the sale or acquisition of property located within a Civil Airport Runway Clear Zone or a Military Airfield Clear Zone?

☒ No. **Attach Source Document**:
(Project complies with 24 CFR 51.303(a)(3).)

☐ Yes. **Notice must be provided to buyer.** The notice must advise the buyer that the property is in a Runway Clear Zone or Clear Zone, what the implications of such a location are, and that there is a possibility that the property may, at a later date, be acquired by the airport operator. The buyer must sign a statement acknowledging receipt of this information. (for a sample notice, see the HUD Exchange) (**attach a copy of the signed notice**)

Coastal Barrier Resources Act
[Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 3501]

Is the project located in a coastal barrier resource area?

☒ No. **Cite or attach Source Document.**
(Proceed with project.)

☐ Yes. Federal assistance may not be used in such an area.

Flood Disaster Protection Act*
[Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001-4128)]

Does the project involve acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of structures located in a FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Area?

☒ No. **Attach copy of Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)**

☐ Yes. **Attach copy of Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)**

Is the community participating in the National Insurance Program (or has less than one year passed since FEMA notification of Special Flood Hazards)?

☐ Yes. Flood Insurance under the National Flood Insurance Program must be obtained. If HUD assistance is provided as a grant, insurance must be maintained for the economic life of the project and in the amount of the total project cost (or up to the maximum allowable coverage, whichever is less). If HUD assistance is provided as a loan, insurance must be maintained for the term of the loan and in the amount of the loan (or up to the maximum allowable coverage, whichever is less). (**Attach a copy of the flood insurance policy declaration**)

☐ No. **Federal assistance may not be used in the Special Flood Hazard Area.**

**Per 24 CFR 58.6(a)(3), this requirement does not apply to State-administered CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs.*

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Statement of Process and Status of Environmental Analysis

Instructions:
Provide a brief description of the administrative procedures associated with the construction and presentation of the environmental review record (ERR). List the Responsible Entity, Certifying Officer, the physical location of the ERR, the dates and comment periods associated with any public notices, and contact information for the submission of comments regarding the ERR.

Ashland County has been awarded CDBG and HOME funds for the PY2025 Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program. The program will involve Owner Home Rehabilitation and Owner Home Repair activities. Ashland County is responsible for compling with all local, State, and Federal regulations, Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 58.5, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality requirements under 40 CFR Part 58, and for documenting review of potential impacts resulting from activities funded by the grants.

The Environmental Review process was performed to analyze the proposed activities of Owner Home Rehabilitation and Owner Home Repair. The scope of work for those each of those activities is determined to be Categorical Exclusion Subject to Section 58.5. As this is a CHIP Grant the exact project locations is not known at this time and thus a Tiered Review is necessary. Tier 1 consists of a general project area review, while a Tier 2 Review will take place as soon as the project sites are identified. Site visits occur during the Tier 2 process.

Responsible Entity: Ashland County Commissioners
Certifying Officer: President of the County Commissioners
Location of ERR: 100 Cottage St., Ashland, Ohio 44805
Comment Period: Local 3/3/26 to 3/13/26 State 3/15/26 to 3/30/26
Submission of Comments: State of Ohio ocd@development.ohio.gov

Monitoring and Enforcement Procedures

Instructions:
Describe any post-review monitoring or enforcement procedures associated with environmental mitigation actions.

Tier 1 Review finds no significant impact and requires no mitigations.

After the project sites are identified a Tier 2 Review will occur including a site visit, impacts and any necessary mitigations will be listed. No negative impacts are anticipated.

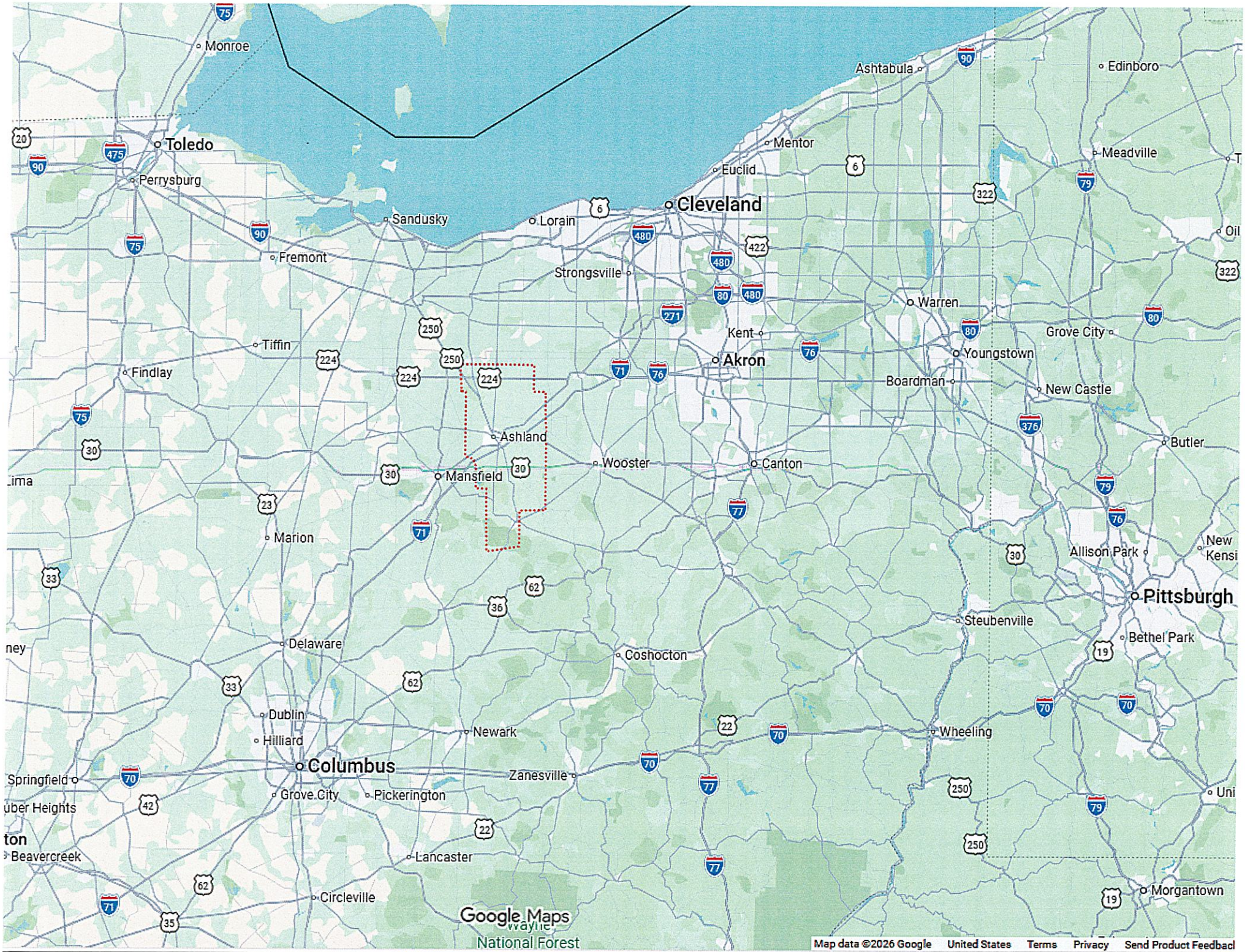
List of Site Visits and Important Meetings

Date	Participants	Description
4/10/2025	Dale Hartle	PY2025 CHIP 1st Public Hearing
5/8/2025	Dale Hartle	PY2025 CHIP 2nd Public Hearing

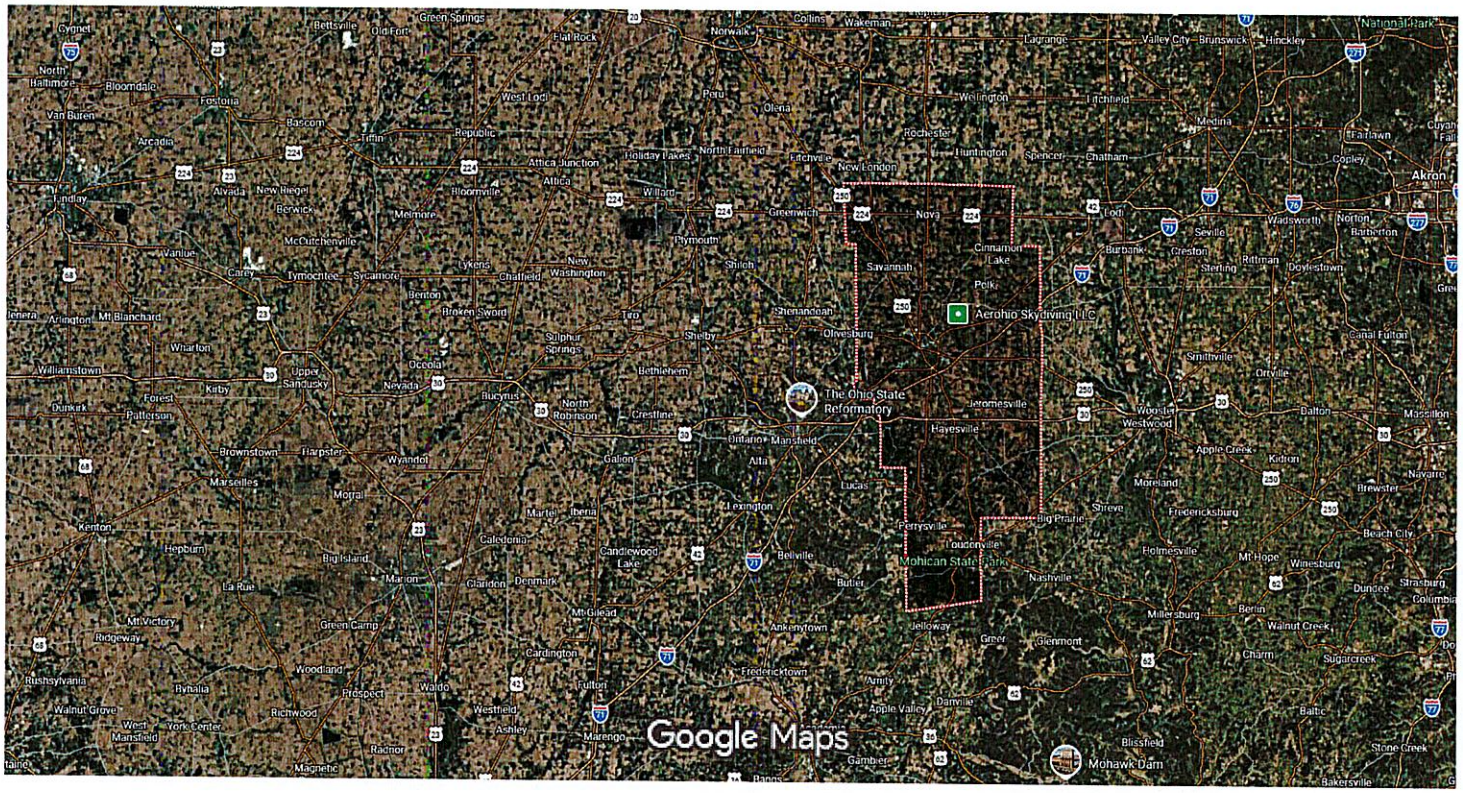
Participants in the Review

Name	Title	Organization
Scott Hillis	Grants Director	ORDC

MAPS

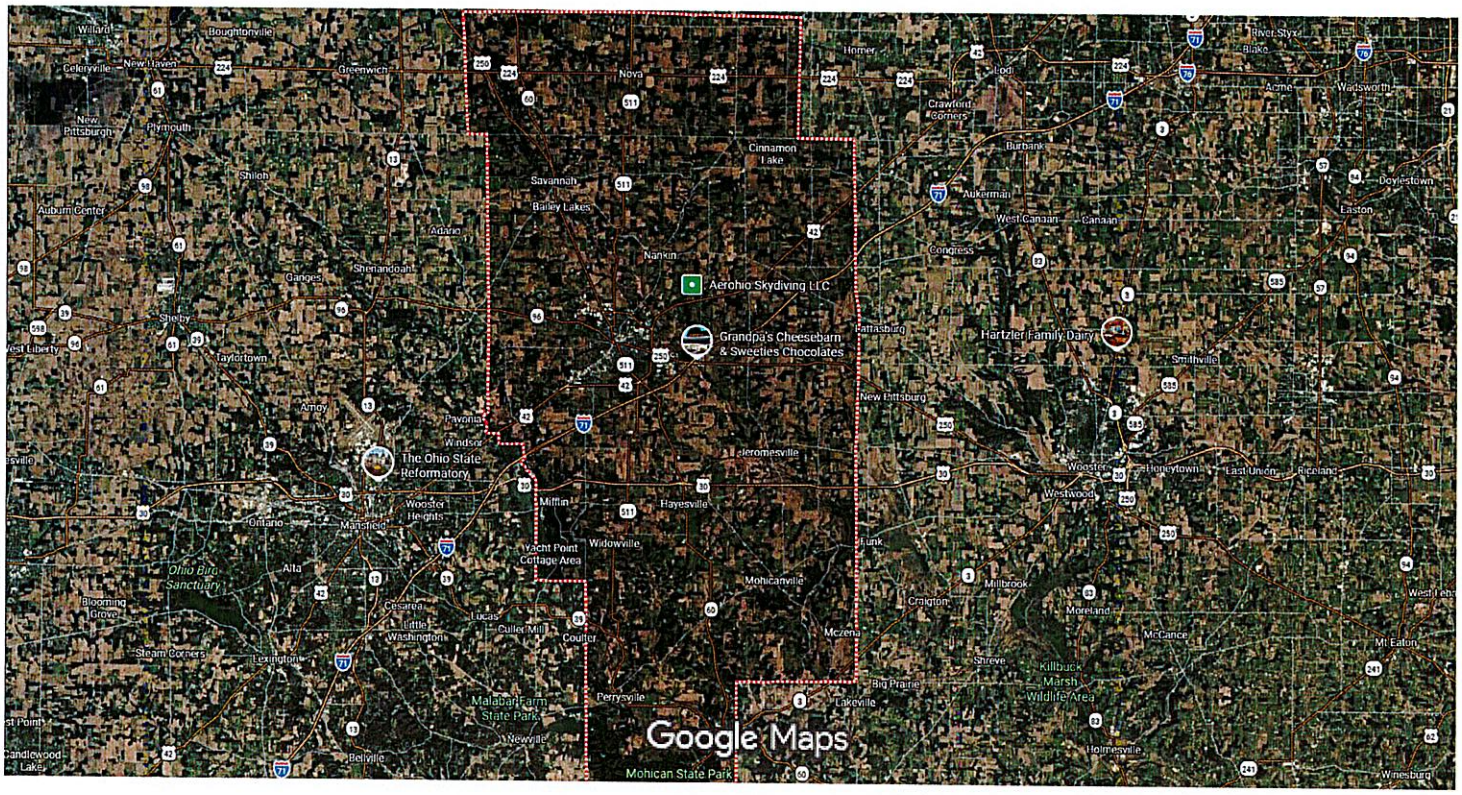

Monroe
Toledo
Perrysburg
Sandusky
Lorain
Cleveland
Euclid
Mentor
Ashtabula
Edinboro
Meadville
Fremont
Strongsville
Warren
Kent
Akron
Youngstown
Grove City
Boardman
New Castle
Tiffin
Findlay
Ashland
Wooster
Canton
Mansfield
Butler
Marion
Allison Park
Pittsburgh
Steubenville
Bethel Park
Delaware
Coshocton
Dublin
Hilliard
Newark
Wheeling
Columbus
Springfield
Zanesville
Grove City
Pickerington
Beavercreek
Lancaster
Circleville
Morgantown
Wayne
National Forest
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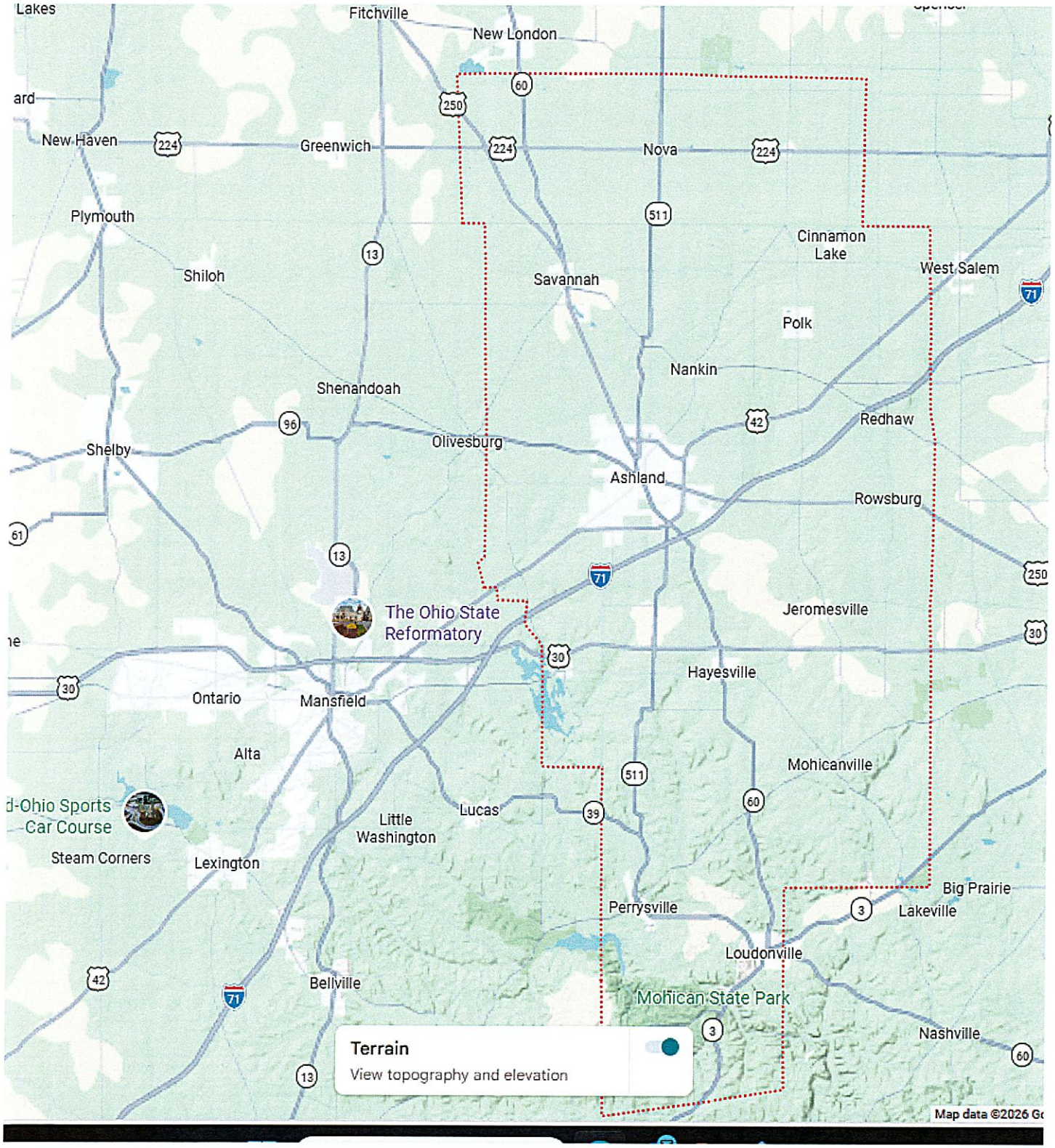
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London
Huntington
162
Spencer Lak
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301
58
Lodi
Ruggles
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Homerville
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Cinnamon Lake
Savannah
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West Salem
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Blachleyville
Funk
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Mifflin
Hayesville
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Charles Mill Lake
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Funk Bottoms
173
Mohicanville
39
McKay
179
3
Lucas
95
603
Big Prairie
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Resort
Perrysville
226
Malabar Farm
Loudonville
Lakeville
Odell Lake
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Pleasant Hill Lake
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New London
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New Haven
Greenwich
Nova
Plymouth
Shiloh
Savannah
Cinnamon Lake
West Salem
Polk
Nankin
Shenandoah
Redhaw
Olivesburg
Shelby
Ashland
Rowsburg
The Ohio State Reformatory
Jeromesville
Hayesville
Ontario
Mansfield
Alta
Mohicanville
d-Ohio Sports Car Course
Steam Corners
Lexington
Little Washington
Lucas
Big Prairie
Perrysville
Lakeville
Loudonville
Bellville
Mohican State Park
Nashville
Terrain
View topography and elevation
Map data ©2026 Go

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Historic Preservation

Introduction

HUD programs support and facilitate the use of historic properties for affordable housing, economic development, and community revitalization. HUD encourages the rehabilitation of historic buildings and the preservation of irreplaceable resources like archeological sites that convey centuries of human cultural activity. The **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq., directs each Federal agency, and those Tribal, State, and Local governments that assume Federal agency responsibilities, to protect historic properties and to avoid, minimize, or mitigate possible harm that may result from agency actions. The review process, known as Section 106 review, is detailed in 36 CFR Part 800. Early consideration of historic places in project planning and full consultation with interested parties are key to effective compliance with Section 106. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) are primary consulting parties in the process. A qualified historic preservation consultant may assist with the technical components of the Section 106 review process.

Historic properties are those that are listed in or eligible for listing in the **National Register of Historic Places (NR)**. The National Register is a list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have been determined by the National Park Service to be significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture, at the local, state or national level. Generally, a property must be at least 50 years old to qualify, but there are exceptions. The grantee should consult the National Register database, existing state and local inventories, local historical and preservation organizations, and local planning departments to identify properties that are listed in or eligible for the National Register.

All assisted activities require Section 106 review except projects that are exempt or 'categorically excluded not subject to' under HUD regulations (24 CFR Parts 50 and 58) or that are determined by HUD to have "No potential to Affect Historic Properties" as defined at 36 CFR 800.3.

HUD Guidance

Compliance with Section 106 is achieved by following the procedures that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has outlined in 36 CFR Part 800.

The Section 106 Process consists of four basic steps. After determining the need to do a Section 106 review, the HUD official or Responsible Entity initiates consultation with statutory and other interested parties (**Step 1**), identifies and evaluates historic properties (**Step 2**), assesses effects of the project on properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (**Step 3**), and resolves any adverse effects through project design modifications or mitigation (**Step 4**). Note that consultation continues through all phases of the review.

Step 1. Initiate Consultation

The following parties are entitled to participate in Section 106 reviews:

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs);
- Federally recognized Indian tribes/Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs);
- Native Hawaiian Organizations; local governments; and project grantees.

The general public and individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in a project may also participate as consulting parties.

Participation varies with the nature and scope of a project. Refer to resources on this site for guidance on consultation, including the required timeframes for response. Consultation should begin early to enable full consideration of preservation options. See the SHPO website for state-specific guidance for consulting with them.

Use the *When To Consult With Tribes* checklist found in the appendix of this **notice** to determine if tribes should be invited to consult on a particular project. Use the **Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT)** to identify tribes that may have an interest in the area where the project is located.

Step 2. Identify and Evaluate Historic Properties

Define the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Gather information about known historic properties in the APE. Historic buildings, districts and archeological sites may have been identified in local, state, and national surveys and registers, local historic districts, municipal plans, town and county histories, and local history websites. Tribes may identify historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them. If not already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, identified properties are then evaluated to see if they are eligible for the National Register.

Step 3. Assess Effects on Historic Properties

Only properties that are listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places receive further consideration under Section 106. Assess the effect(s) of the project by applying the Criteria of Adverse Effect. (See 36 CFR 800.5). Consider direct and indirect effects as applicable.

Step 4. Resolve Adverse Effects

Work with consulting parties to try to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must be notified and given an opportunity to participate in the consultation. Refer to 36 CFR 800.6 and 800.7. Resolution of adverse effects generally results in a Memorandum of Agreement that spells out how the adverse effects will be minimized and/or mitigated. If adverse effects cannot be satisfactorily mitigated, the HUD official or Responsible Entity may disapprove a project.

Compliance and Documentation

It is important to remember that the environmental review record (ERR) must show that Section 106 review was completed before approval is given to proceed with HUD assisted projects.

The environmental review record should contain documentation on **one** of these types of findings:

1. No Historic Properties Affected

- ☐ Letter from SHPO (or THPO on tribal lands*) that concurs with HUD's or the Responsible Entity's determination of "no historic properties affected"
- ☐ With documentation on 1) the undertaking and the APE (including photographs, maps, and drawings, as necessary), 2) steps taken to identify historic properties, 3) the basis for determining that no historic properties are present or affected, 4) evidence of tribal consultation if required; and 5) copies or summaries of any views provided by consulting parties and the public
- ☐ If the SHPO has not responded to a properly documented request for concurrence within 30 days of receipt of the request, document the request and lack of response as part of the record

2. No Adverse Effect

- ☐ Letter from SHPO (or THPO on tribal lands*) that concurs with HUD'S or the Responsible Entity's finding of "no adverse effect"
- ☐ With documentation on 1) the undertaking and the APE (including photographs, maps, and drawings, as necessary), 2) steps taken to identify historic properties, 3) affected historic properties (including characteristics qualifying them for the NR), 4) the undertaking's effects on historic properties, 5) why the criteria of adverse effect were not applicable (§800.5), 6) evidence of tribal consultation if required, and 7) copies or summaries of any views provided by consulting parties and the public
- ☐ If the SHPO has not responded to a properly documented request for concurrence within 30 days of receipt of the request, document the request and lack of response as part of the record

3. Adverse Effect

- ☐ Notification of adverse effect sent to Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- ☐ Letter from SHPO (or THPO on tribal lands*) that concurs with a finding of "adverse effect"
- ☐ With documentation on 1) the undertaking and the APE (including photographs, maps, and drawings, as necessary), 2) steps taken to identify historic properties, 3) affected historic properties (including characteristics qualifying them for the NR), 4) the undertaking's effects on historic properties, 5) why the criteria of adverse effect are applicable (§ 800.5), 6) evidence of tribal consultation if required, and 7) copies or summaries of any views provided by consulting parties and the public
- ☐ A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or a Programmatic Agreement (PA) signed by the HUD official or Responsible Entity, SHPO/THPO, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation if participating, and other signatory and concurring parties
- ☐ If resolution is not reached in an MOA or PA, provide correspondence and comments between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and HUD Secretary (for Part 50 projects) or Responsible Entity's chief elected local official (for Part 58 projects)

When do you consult with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) in lieu of the SHPO?

If the project occurs on tribal lands, you consult with the THPO in lieu of the SHPO if they have assumed the role of the SHPO on tribal lands. Otherwise, and on non-tribal lands, you consult with the THPO in addition to the SHPO. A party on non-tribal lands that may be affected by a project on tribal lands with a THPO may request that the SHPO participate.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Floodplain Management

Introduction

Executive Order (EO) 11988 – Floodplain Management – requires Federal activities to avoid impacts to floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development to the extent practicable.

EO 13690 – Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input – revised EO 11988 and established a new FFRMS to address current and future flood risk, improve resiliency, and ensure that projects funded with taxpayer dollars last as long as intended. EO 14030 – Climate-Related Financial Risk – subsequently furthered measures to address climate-related financial risk.

Complying with 24 CFR Part 55

Step 1: Determine whether any of the exceptions at 55.12(c) apply.

Under 55.12, certain projects are exempted from Part 55. Exceptions for Part 55 were updated with the rule published April 23, 2024.

Actions listed in the revised 24 CFR 55.12 that are exempt from the floodplain management requirements of Part 55 include:

- Exempt activities and actions that are Categorically Excluded Not Subject to 50.4 or 58.5
- Restoration or preservation of floodplains, acquisition of floodplains property provided the site is used for flood control or open space but only if structures are cleared and improvements are specifically limited,
- Receivership or foreclosure and related actions
- Policy-level actions not involving site-based work
- Issuance of non-project-based housing vouchers
- A minor amendment to a previously approved action

The Final Rule, published on April 23, 2024, modifies the "incidental floodplain exception," such that the exemption for projects in floodways, LiMWA, or Coastal High Hazard Area no longer applies. Projects in floodways, LiMWA, and Coastal High Hazard Area are further addressed now in 24 CFR 55.8.

Step 2: Identify and Define the FFRMS Floodplain,

The Part 55 requirements define the approach by which HUD or RE determines if an action is in the FFRMS floodplain and subject to the 8-step decision-making process. Part 55 defines the floodplain of concern as the FFRMS floodplain as determined by using one of three approaches:

1. CISA
2. 0.2PFA
3. FVA

For non-critical actions:

- When available and actionable CISA data exists and has been formally adopted by HUD, use CISA maps to verify the floodplain and elevation, provided federal data is equal to or greater than BFE and local CISA data is as high as the lower of 0.2PFA or FVA (BFE+2):
    - CISA maps may be used to identify the horizontal extent of the FFRMS floodplain.
    - If the project is in the FFRMS floodplain, the 8-step decision-making process is required.
    - If the project involves new construction or substantial improvement, elevation requirements apply.
    - If the project is outside the FFRMS floodplain, then floodplain management compliance is complete.

- If CISA maps are not available, use 0.2PFA and utilize the FEMA Map Service Center:
  - The 500-year floodplain map may be used to define the horizontal extent of the FFRMS floodplain.
  - If the project is within the 500-year floodplain, the 8-step decision-making process is required.
  - If the project involves new construction or substantial improvement, elevation requirements apply.
  - If FEMA has mapped the 500-year floodplain and the project is outside the 500-year floodplain, then floodplain management compliance is complete.
- If FEMA has not mapped the 500-year floodplain, use the FVA:
  - When using FVA, HUD recommends utilizing the Federal Flood Standard Support Tool or the FFRMS Floodplain Determination Job Aid to determine the horizontal extent of the FFRMS floodplain.
  - If the project elevation is equal to or lower than the floodplain that results from adding 2 feet to BFE, the 8-step decision-making process is required.
  - If the project involves new construction or substantial improvement, elevation requirements apply.
  - If the project elevation is higher than BFE+2, then floodplain management compliance is complete.
  - If FEMA has not mapped the area, then use best available information.

For critical actions:

- When available and actionable CISA data exists and have been formally adopted by HUD, use CISA maps to verify the floodplain and elevation, provided federal data is equal to or greater than BFE and local CISA data must be equal to or greater than FVA (BFE+3):
  - CISA maps may be used to identify the horizontal extent of the FFRMS floodplain.
  - If the project is in the FFRMS floodplain, the 8-step decision-making process is required.
  - If the project involves new construction or substantial improvement, elevation requirements apply.
  - If the project is outside the FFRMS floodplain, then floodplain management compliance is complete.
- If CISA maps are not available, use 0.2PFA and utilize the FEMA Map Service Center. The FFRMS Floodplain is the higher of the 500-year floodplain and BFE+3:
  - The 500-year floodplain map may be used to define the horizontal extent of the FFRMS floodplain.
  - If the project is within the FFRMS floodplain, the 8-step decision-making process is required.
  - If the project involves new construction or substantial improvement, elevation requirements apply.
- If FEMA has not mapped the 500-year floodplain or if the FVA results in a higher FFRMS floodplain elevation than the 500-year floodplain, use the FVA:
  - When using FVA, HUD recommends utilizing the Federal Flood Standard Support Tool or the FFRMS Floodplain Determination Job Aid to determine the horizontal extent of the FFRMS floodplain.
  - If the project elevation is equal to or lower than the floodplain that results from adding 3 feet to BFE, the 8-step decision-making process is required.
  - If the project involves new construction or substantial improvement, elevation requirements apply.
  - If the project elevation is higher than BFE+3, then floodplain management compliance is complete.
  - If FEMA has not mapped the area, then use best available information.

Step 3: Determine if the 8-Step Process is required.

Under section 55.13, certain actions must comply with Part 55 but are not required to complete the full 8-Step Process.

- Section 55.13 lists project types that must comply with the basic restrictions in Part 55 (i.e. the prohibitions on projects in floodways and critical actions in coastal high hazard areas) but which are not required to complete the 5- or 8-step decision-making processes. These include acquisition and refinance of existing single-family properties, minor improvements to single-family properties, leasing, and mortgage insurance provided outside of the LiMWA, CHHA, or floodways.
    - An additional exception includes special projects for the purpose of improving the energy or water efficiency of utilities or installing renewable energy that involve the repair, rehabilitation, modernization, weatherization, or improvement of existing structures or infrastructure that are not substantial improvements and that do not include the installation of equipment below the FFRMS floodplain elevation.
- Section 55.14 lists activities that may complete the modified 5-step process instead of the full 8-step decision-making process. These actions are not required to provide public notice or consider alternatives but must complete the other steps in the 8-step decision-making process. Types of actions that allow the modified 5-step process for compliance include:
    - Disposition of properties
    - Purchase and refinance of existing multifamily housing or healthcare facilities
    - Minor improvements to multifamily housing and non-residential structures, like curb and gutter repairs without any increase to impervious surface

If the project occurs in the FFRMS floodplain, an 8-Step Process is required unless it is inapplicable per 55.13 or the **5-Step Process** is applicable per 55.14.

If the project occurs in a floodway, federal assistance may not be used at this location unless the project is a functionally dependent use or floodplain function restoration activity or a 55.12(c) exception applies. If it is a functionally dependent use or restoration activity, the 8-Step Process is required.

If the project occurs in a Coastal High Hazard Area (V Zone), federal assistance may not be used at this location if the project is a critical action. For all other actions, financial assistance is prohibited unless the activity is an existing structure, an improvement of an existing structure or reconstruction following a disaster in accordance with 24 CFR 55.1(c)(3)(i). Refer to 55.1(c)(3)(i) and (ii) for construction requirements for projects permitted in coastal high hazard areas. An 8 Step Process must be performed unless an exception applies.

Step 4: Complete the 8-Step Process and identify mitigation requirements.

Review Section 55.20 and the resources on this page for information on completing the 8-Step Process. Note that although Part 55 now contains elevation requirements for non-critical actions, projects involving new construction and substantial improvements (as defined in 55.2(b)(10)) must be elevated or, for nonresidential structures, floodproofed to the base flood elevation of the floodplain in order to get flood insurance from FEMA.

If the project involves new construction or substantial improvement (as defined in 24 CFR 55.2(b)(10), NFIP regulations require that the affected structure(s) be elevated to the base flood elevation. State or local law or program policy may require additional elevation (or "freeboard") beyond the minimum elevation requirements set by FEMA.

Compliance and Documentation

Under the Final Rule, HUD or RE shall require all of the analysis required under Part 55, including applicable exceptions and all required steps from the 8-step decision-making process under Subpart 55.20, be documented in the ERR.

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ Documentation supporting the determination that an exception at 55.12 applies.
- ☐ A map or other relevant documentation supporting the determination that the project is located outside the FFRMS floodplain
- ☐ A completed 8-step decision-making process, including a map, early and final public notices, and other documentation associated with each of the steps
- ☐ A completed 5-step process, including a map and other documentation associated with each of the steps

Flood Insurance

Introduction

The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4012a) requires that projects receiving federal assistance and located in an area identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as being within a Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) be covered by flood insurance under the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**. In order to be able to purchase flood insurance, the community must be participating in the NFIP. If the community is not participating in the NFIP, federal assistance cannot be used in those areas.

HUD Guidance

- **Does this project involve mortgage insurance, refinance, acquisition, repairs, rehabilitation, or construction of a structure, mobile home, or insurable personal property?**
- **If so, is the project excepted from flood insurance?** There are four statutory exceptions:
  - Formula grants made to states
  - Self-insured state-owned property within states approved by the Federal Insurance Administrator consistent with 44 CFR 75.11
  - Small loans ($5,000 or less)
  - Assisted leasing that is not used for repairs, improvements, or acquisition

In addition, it is HUD policy that flood insurance is not required for a federal project consisting of minor repairs if all aggregated repairs cost less than the National Flood Insurance Program's maximum deductible of $10,000.

- **If not, is the structure, part of the structure, or insurable property located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area?** Use **FEMA's Map Service Center** to make the determination.

If so, the community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program *or* has less than one year passed since FEMA notification of Special Flood Hazards? For loans, loan insurance or guarantees, the amount of flood insurance coverage must at least equal the outstanding principal balance of the loan or the maximum limit of coverage made available under the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. For grants and other non-loan forms of financial assistance, flood insurance coverage must be continued for the life of the building irrespective of the transfer of ownership. The amount of coverage must at least equal the total project cost or the maximum coverage limit of the National Flood Insurance Program, whichever is less. If the community is not participating, or if its participation has been suspended, federal assistance may not be used for projects in the Special Flood Hazard Area.

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ Documentation supporting the determination that the project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance
- ☐ A FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) showing that the project is not located in a Special Flood Hazard Area
- ☐ A FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) showing that the project is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area along with a copy of the flood insurance policy declaration or a paid receipt for the current annual flood insurance premium and a copy of the application for flood insurance in the review

WETLAND PROTECTION

Wetlands Protection

Introduction

Executive Order 11990: Protection of Wetlands requires Federal activities to avoid adverse impacts to wetlands where practicable.

HUD's Final Rule to implement the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS), published on April 23, 2024, updates **24 CFR Part 55**. The new Part 55 preserves many of the wetlands requirements of the prior rule, with some modification and clarification. HUD or Responsible Entities (REs) must identify whether a proposed action is located in a wetland, impacts a wetland, or occurs in proximity to wetlands as defined in **55.9**. As a primary screening, HUD or REs shall consult the **National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)** map and assess the site for visual indication of wetlands. Where the primary screening is inconclusive, further evaluation is required and may include, but is not limited to:

- Consultation with the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Reference to the Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey, and Tribal, state, or local information on wetlands within the action area and field identification of the biological, rather than jurisdictional, characteristics of wetlands
- Evaluation by a qualified scientist to delineate wetland boundaries on the project site

The process for identifying wetlands is covered under **24 CFR Part 55.9** with limitations on HUD assistance in wetlands in **subpart 55.10**.

HUD Guidance

— **Does an exception apply?** HUD's regulation on floodplains and wetlands was amended in April 2024 under the Final Rule for Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. Generally speaking, exceptions that would exclude a project from wetlands review include:

- Exempt projects and those covered under Categorically Excluded Not Subject To 24 CFR Part 58 (CENST)
- Acquisition of wetland property provided the site is used for flood control or open space but only if structures are cleared and improvements are specifically limited
- Receivership or foreclosure actions and related work
- Policy-level action not involving site-based work
- The issuance of non-project based housing vouchers
- Minor amendment to a previously approved action
- Exceptions for wetlands requirements are covered under **Subpart 55.12**.

— **Does this project involve new construction as defined in Executive Order 11990 and have a direct on-site impact to wetlands?** If so, the project will require the completion of the 8-step decision-making process to address wetlands impacts and determine if there are no practicable alternatives to wetlands development.

— **Does the project *indirectly* affect wetlands by modifying the flow of stormwater, releasing pollutants, or changing conditions that contribute to wetlands viability?** If so, the significance of these impacts must be evaluated and minimized through best management practices. Mitigation measures to address off-site wetland impacts may be necessary to comply with other related laws and authorities such as the Endangered Species Act, or to reduce impacts to less than significant under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), *but the 8-step decision-making process is not required.* If the project site includes wetlands that will not be impacted by new construction, measures to preserve such wetlands from future impacts, including by obtaining a restrictive covenant, conservation easement, or other mechanism is strongly encouraged.

- **Does the project indirectly affect off-site wetlands**? If so, impacts must be minimized to the extent practicable, *but the 8-step decision-making process is not required*. Mitigation measures to address off-site wetland impacts may be necessary to comply with other related laws and authorities such as the Endangered Species Act, or to reduce impacts to less than significant under NEPA. If an action has direct impacts to on-site wetlands and indirect off-site impacts to wetlands, then both are addressed at Step 4 of the 8-step decision-making process as described in **Subpart 55.20(d)**.

Limitations on HUD assistance in wetlands are detailed in **Subpart 55.10**.

For projects that include new construction and have a direct impact to wetlands, an 8-step decision-making process must be completed. The 8-step decision-making process has been modified through HUD's Final Rule on Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. Details of the 8-step decision-making process are described in **Subpart 55.20**, with additional guidance resources available.

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ Documentation supporting the determination that an exception applies.
- ☐ Documentation supporting the determination that the project does not involve new construction (as defined in Executive Order 11990), expansion of a building's footprint, or ground disturbance.
- ☐ A map or other relevant documentation supporting the determination that the project does not impact an on- or off-site wetland.
- ☐ A completed 8-Step Process, including a map and the early and final public notices.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Coastal Zone Management

Introduction

Coastal resources and ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the effects of urbanization. They encompass sensitive soils and vegetation as well as unique landforms like barrier reefs and wetlands that play an important part in the health and protection of upland areas.

The Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) is authorized by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq) and administered at the federal level by the Coastal Programs Division within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (NOAA-OCRM).

NOAA's Coastal Programs Division is responsible for advancing national coastal management objectives and maintaining and strengthening state and territorial coastal management capabilities. It supports states through financial assistance, mediation, technical services and information, and participation in priority state, regional, and local forums. Federal assistance to applicant agencies for activities affecting any coastal use or resource is granted only when such activities are consistent with Federally approved state coastal zone management plans.

Projects that can affect the coastal zone must be carried out in a manner consistent with the state coastal zone management program under Section 307(c) and (d) of the Act, as amended. For HUD policy, see **24 CFR 58.5(c)** or **24 CFR 50.4(c)(2)**.

HUD Guidance

Does your state have a designated coastal zone? **Yes** **No**

- **If so, is the project located in, or does it affect, a coastal zone as defined in the state's coastal management plan?**
- **If so, does the project include activities that are subject to state review?** Refer to your state Coastal Management Program (CMP) website for listed activities.
- **If so, is the project consistent with the State's coastal zone management program?** Work with the state coastal commission to obtain a consistency determination.

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ A general location map establishing the project is located in a state where there are no coastal zones or documentation showing the State is not participating in the CZM program
- ☐ If the project is in a state with a coastal zone, a statement or map from the local planning department, state coastal commission, or district as evidence the project is not in the CZMA.
- ☐ A determination that the project activities are not subject to state review
- ☐ A Federal consistency determination from the state coastal commission, including a description of any necessary mitigation

Coastal Barrier Resources

Introduction

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 designated relatively undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts as part of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) and made these areas ineligible for most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance. The Coastal Barrier Improvement Act (CBIA) of 1990 reauthorized the CBRA and expanded the CBRS to include undeveloped coastal barriers along the Florida Keys, Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

There are a total of 584 system units, encompassing approximately 1.3 million acres of land and associated aquatic habitat. The system units are generally comprised of private lands that were relatively undeveloped at the time of their designation within the CBRS. The boundaries of these units are generally intended to follow geomorphic, development, or cultural features.

The law encourages the conservation of hurricane-prone, biologically rich coastal barriers by restricting Federal expenditures that encourage development. HUD financial assistance may not be used for most activities in CBRS units.

HUD Guidance

Is the project located in a Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) unit? **Yes** **No**

With very limited exceptions, federal assistance is not allowed for projects in a CBRS unit. Federal monies can be spent within CBRS units only for certain exempted activities (e.g., a nature trail) after consultation with the FWS (see 16 USC 3505 for exceptions to limitations on expenditures).

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ A general location map establishing there are no Coastal Barrier Resource System units in the city or county.
- ☐ A map issued by the FWS or FEMA (or from their website) showing that the proposed project is not located within a designated Coastal Barrier Resource System Unit. The FEMA map panel number must be cited within the Environmental Review Record.
- ☐ Approval of the project from the FWS, including all prior correspondence

Ohio Coastal Atlas Map Viewer

ODNR - Office of Coastal Management

- Legend & Layers
- County Bookmarks
- Other Tools
  - Address/Coordinate Search
    - Example: -83.000, 40.000
  - Measurement
    - Miles
    - **Measurement Result**
    - 24.7 Miles
  - Draw
- Drag and Drop
- Print



SOLE SOURCE AQUIFERS

Sole Source Aquifers

Introduction

Aquifers and surface water are drinking water systems that may be impacted by development. The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 requires protection of drinking water systems that are the sole or principal drinking water source for an area and which, if contaminated, would create a significant hazard to public health.

Sole Source Aquifer designations are one tool to protect drinking water supplies in areas where alternatives to the groundwater resource are few, cost-prohibitive, or nonexistent. The designation protects an area's ground water resource by requiring U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review of any proposed projects within the designated area that are receiving federal financial assistance. All proposed projects receiving federal funds are subject to review to ensure they do not endanger the water source.

Resources to contact for further information include the local water department or authority, Regional or State EPA Offices, and the local or state department of natural resources.

Only for new construction and conversion activities does the sole source aquifer (SSA) authority apply. SSA information is available from the local planning agency but is also listed on the homepage of the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water.

HUD Guidance

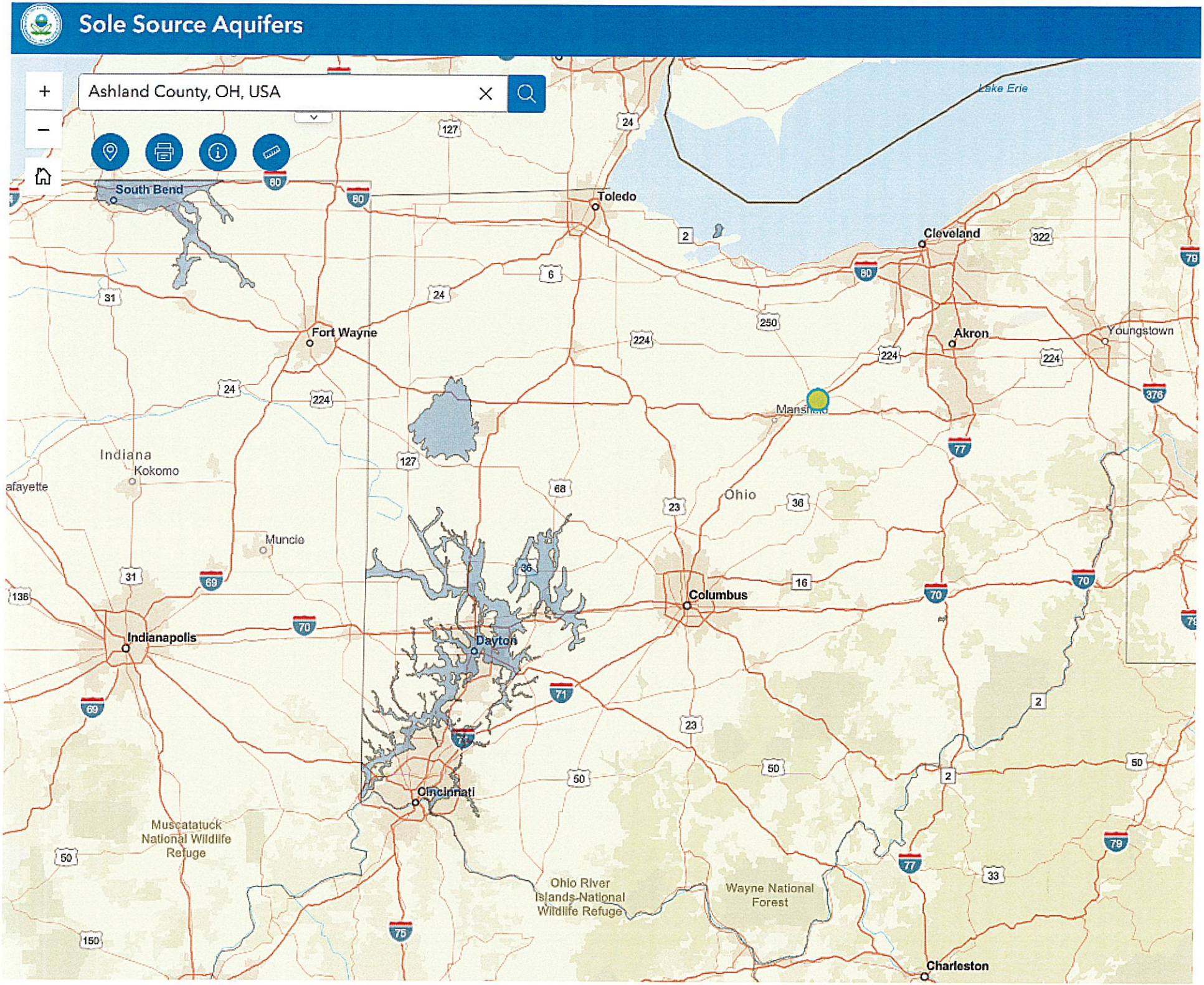
Does the project include any activities beyond acquisition, leasing, or rehabilitation of existing buildings? Yes No

- **If so, is the project located on a sole source aquifer?** Review the EPA regional Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) maps to determine whether the project is within the boundaries of a designated SSA.
- **If so, do you have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or working agreement with the EPA that excludes your project from further review?**
- **If not, will the proposed project contaminate the aquifer and create a significant hazard to public health?** Consult with your Regional EPA Office. Your consultation request should include detailed information about your proposed project and its relationship to the aquifer and associated streamflow source area. EPA will also want to know about water, storm water and wastewater at the proposed project. Follow your MOU or working agreement or contact your Regional EPA office for specific information you may need to provide. EPA may request additional information if impacts to the aquifer are questionable after this information is submitted for review.
- **If so, work with the EPA to develop mitigation measures.**

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ Documentation, including a map, showing that the project site is not on a sole source aquifer
- ☐ A determination that the project consists solely of acquisition, leasing, or rehabilitation of existing buildings
- ☐ Documentation showing that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or agreement with the EPA excludes your project from further review
- ☐ Documentation that EPA has reviewed and commented on the proposed action within an SSA and a description of any mitigation measures, if necessary


Sole Source Aquifers
Ashland County, OH, USA
Lake Erie
South Bend
Toledo
Cleveland
Fort Wayne
Akron
Youngstown
Mansfield
Indiana
Kokomo
Ohio
Muncie
Columbus
Indianapolis
Dayton
Cincinnati
Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge
Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge
Wayne National Forest
Charleston

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Endangered Species

Introduction

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, and its implementing regulations were designed to protect and recover species in danger of extinction and the ecosystems that they depend upon. When passed, the ESA spoke specifically to the value - tangible and intangible - of conserving species for future generations. In passing the Act, Congress recognized another key fact that subsequent scientific understanding has only confirmed: the best way to protect species is to conserve their habitat.

Under Section 7 of the ESA, the federal government and each of its agencies have a statutory mandate to use their powers for the conservation of species. Each agency must ensure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species in the wild or destroy or adversely modify its critical habitat.

The ESA is jointly administered by the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is responsible for terrestrial and freshwater species and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for marine species and anadromous fish, such as salmon. Collectively referred to as the Services, these offices are responsible for listing species under their authority as threatened or endangered as appropriate. If an agency determines that a proposed action may affect one or more listed species, it must formally consult with the Service office or offices responsible for the affected species.

The environmental review must consider potential impacts of the HUD-assisted project to endangered and threatened species and critical habitats. The review must evaluate potential impacts not only to any listed but also to any proposed endangered or threatened species and critical habitats. This responsibility is cited in environmental procedures at 24 CFR 58.5(e) and 24 CFR 50.4 (e).

HUD Guidance

Does the project involve any activities that have the potential to affect species or habitats? Yes No

The first step in complying with section 7 of the ESA is to determine whether the project includes any activities with the potential to affect any species or habitats. A No Effect determination can be made if none of the activities involved in the project have potential to affect species or habitats. Examples of actions without potential to affect listed species may include: rental assistance, purchasing existing buildings, completing interior renovations to existing buildings, and replacing exterior paint or siding on existing buildings.

Additionally, you may be able to determine that the project will have No Effect on listed species or designated critical habitats based on an applicable letter of understanding, memorandum of agreement, programmatic agreement, or local checklist. Consult your Field Environmental Officer or local HUD office's environmental guidance website to determine if this option is available in your area.

If you are able to determine based on the types of activities involved in your project that it will have No Effect on listed species or designated critical habitats, the project is in compliance with the ESA. Describe your analysis and conclusions in the environmental review record (ERR), including references to local agreements and checklists if applicable.

If so, are federally listed species or designated critical habitats present in the action area? Yes No

To determine whether there are federally listed species or designated critical habitats in the action area, first define the action area. For purposes of the ESA, the "action area" includes all areas that your project will affect either directly, indirectly, and/or cumulatively, and is not merely the immediate area involved in the project. (50 CFR 402.02) Next, obtain a list of protected species from the Services. This information is available through FWS's online tool, **IPaC**, on the **FWS Website**, or you may contact your **local FWS** and/or **NMFS** offices directly.

If there are no federally listed species or designated critical habitats in the action area, you may make a determination that the project will have No Effect and is in compliance with the ESA. This finding is appropriate if the species list indicates that there are no listed species in the project area, or if there is no potential habitat in the project area (i.e. the project is urban infill). The ERR should include all documents used to make this determination, including letters from the Services, species lists from the Services' websites, surveys and/or other documents and analysis showing that there are no species in the action area.

What effects, if any, will the project have on federally listed species or designated critical habitat?

There are three possible determinations: No Effect; May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect; and May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect.

___ A **No Effect** determination can be made if the project has no potential to have any effect on any listed species or designated critical habitats. This finding is appropriate if the project has no potential to affect any species or habitats (see first question) or if there are no federally listed species or designated critical habitats in the action area (see second question). Finally, you may also make a finding of No Effect if you determine, based on any listed species in the area and the specifics of your project, that there are no potential impacts. However, this finding must be based on technically valid information. For example, if there are species present, and a habitat assessment shows that there is no suitable habitat in the project area, then an No Effect finding can be made based on habitat assessment. No Effect projects do not require consultation, but the ERR should include thorough analysis and documentation supporting the determination.

___ A project **May Affect**, but is **Not Likely to Adversely Affect** listed species and/or critical habitats if all potential effects will be beneficial, discountable, or insignificant. A project whose impacts on listed species and/or critical habitats may be greater than beneficial, discountable, or insignificant is considered **Likely to Adversely Affect**.

Consult with the Services as necessary.

The federal funding agency is responsible for interacting with the Fish and Wildlife Services or the National Marine Fisheries Service (the Services). This may be either HUD itself or a representative of the Responsible Entity's organization if the review is prepared under 24 CFR Part 58. It is the responsibility of the federal funding agency to make the determination and conduct all consultation. It is not appropriate for a consultant or other non-federal entity to consult directly with the Services, although they may provide information to the federal agency for it to make its determination.

If the project will have No Effect on listed species or critical habitats, there is no need to consult with the Services. The ERR should contain evidence the habitat will not be altered or species be affected (e.g. species list; habitat assessment conducted by a qualified expert; letter from local planning or natural resource departments; contracted study).

If the project May Affect listed species and/or critical habitats, consultation is required. Initiate consultation by preparing a biological evaluation or assessment and sending it to the appropriate Service office or offices with a request for consultation.

Informal consultation is required if the project is found Not Likely to Adversely Affect. The Services may either concur with the finding or find that formal consultation is required. If the Services concur with the finding that the project is Not Likely to Adversely Affect, consultation is complete. The ERR should contain all documentation, including the biological evaluation and concurrence(s).

Formal consultation is required if the project is found Likely to Adversely Affect. Work with the Services to ensure that the project is not likely to jeopardize listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Incorporate all appropriate mitigation measures into project plans, and include in the ERR all documentation, including the biological evaluation or assessment and biological option(s) issued by the Services.

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following determinations and supporting documentation:

- ☐ No Effect, including a determination that the project does not involve any activities that have a potential to affect species or habitats, evidence that there are no federally listed species in the area, or other analysis supporting a No Effect finding
- ☐ May Affect, Unlikely to Adverse Affect, including all correspondence with the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service
- ☐ Likely to Adversely Affect, including all correspondence with the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service

Ashland County State Listed Animal Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Group	State Status	Federal Status
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*Accipiter striatus*	Bird	Species of Concern	
Sandhill Crane	*Antigone canadensis*	Bird	Threatened	
Canada Warbler	*Cardellina canadensis*	Bird	Special Interest	
Hermit Thrush	*Catharus guttatus*	Bird	Special Interest	
Trumpeter Swan	*Cygnus buccinator*	Bird	Threatened	
Northern Waterthrush	*Parkesia noveboracensis*	Bird	Special Interest	
Sora Rail	*Porzana carolina*	Bird	Species of Concern	
Virginia Rail	*Rallus limicola*	Bird	Species of Concern	
Cerulean Warbler	*Setophaga cerulea*	Bird	Species of Concern	
Magnolia Warbler	*Setophaga magnolia*	Bird	Special Interest	
Winter Wren	*Troglodytes hiemalis*	Bird	Special Interest	
Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*	Bird	Threatened	
Blue-headed Vireo	*Vireo solitarius*	Bird	Special Interest	
Tiger Spiketail	*Cordulegaster erronea*	Dragonfly	Species of Concern	

Data from the Ohio Natural Heritage Database
Species reported extant in county since 1980
6/23/2023

Absence of a species on this list does not indicate absence from the county. The information contained in this list does not represent coordination with ODNR or fulfill NEPA or other federal/state requirements. All federally and/or state listed bat species have ranges that encompass the entire state and are not included on county lists. For further information on current listed species, please use the following link:

State Listed Species | Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ohiodnr.gov)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Group	State Status	Federal Status
Green-faced Clubtail	*Gomphus viridifrons*	Dragonfly	Threatened	
Lake Chubsucker	*Erimyzon sucetta*	Fish	Threatened	
Iowa Darter	*Etheostoma exile*	Fish	Endangered	
Slippershell Mussel	*Alasmidonta viridis*	Mollusk	Threatened	
Wavy-rayed Lampmussel	*Lampsilis fasciola*	Mollusk	Species of Concern	
Creek Heelsplitter	*Lasmigona compressa*	Mollusk	Species of Concern	
Kidneyshell	*Ptychobranchus fasciolaris*	Mollusk	Species of Concern	
Queensnake	*Regina septemvittata*	Reptile	Species of Concern	

Data from the Ohio Natural Heritage Database
Species reported extant in county since 1980
6/23/2023

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State Listed Species | Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ohiodnr.gov)

Ashland County State Listed Plant Species

Common name	Scientific name	Last Observed	Category	State Status	Federal Status
American Sweet-flag	*Acorus americanus*	2014	Vascular Plant	P	
Allegheny-vine	*Adlumia fungosa*	2001	Vascular Plant	E	
Marsh Five-finger	*Comarum palustre*	1980	Vascular Plant	T	
Low Umbrella-sedge	*Cyperus diandrus*	1991	Vascular Plant	T	
Great St. John's-wort	*Hypericum ascyron* ssp. *pyramidatum*	1980	Vascular Plant	P	
Round-fruited Pinweed	*Lechea intermedia*	2000	Vascular Plant	P	
Hairy Pinweed	*Lechea mucronata*	2000	Vascular Plant	P	
Narrow-leaved Pinweed	*Lechea tenuifolia*	2015	Vascular Plant	P	
Woodland Bulrush	*Scirpus expansus*	2014	Vascular Plant	P	
Leafy Goldenrod	*Solidago squarrosa*	2010	Vascular Plant	T	
Three-birds Orchid	*Triphora trianthophoros*	2007	Vascular Plant	P	

Data source: Ohio Natural Heritage Database
Species reported extant in county since 1980
Date accessed: 2/6/2025

State Status:
E = Endangered P = Potentially Threatened
T = Threatened U = Status Under Review
X = Extirpated

Federal Status:
FE = Federally Endangered
FT = Federally Threatened

Absence of a species on this list does not indicate absence from the county. The information contained in this list does not represent coordination with ODNR or fulfill NEPA or other federal/state requirements.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Introduction

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) provides federal protection for certain free-flowing, wild, scenic, and recreational rivers designated as components or potential components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) was created by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq., as amended) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

Each river or river segment in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is administered with the goal of protecting and enhancing the values that caused it to be eligible for inclusion in the system. Designated rivers need not include the entire river and may include tributaries.

Four primary federal agencies are charged with protection and managing our wild and scenic rivers: the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Each river segment is administered by generally one of these federal agencies and/or a state agency and, in some cases, a tribe or in coordination with local government. Boundaries for protected rivers generally extend one-quarter mile from either bank in the lower 48 states and one-half mile on rivers outside national parks in Alaska in order to protect river-related values.

HUD-assisted activities are subject to the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.). The environmental review must evaluate the potential to impact any listed Wild and Scenic River when the assisted project is within proximity to a listed natural resource (**24 CFR 58.5(f)** or **24 CFR 50.4(f)**).

HUD Guidance

Is your project within proximity of a NWSRS river as defined below? **Yes** **No**

Wild and Scenic Rivers. These rivers or river segments have been designated by Congress or by states (with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Interior) as wild, scenic or recreational.

Study Rivers. These rivers or river segments are being studied as a potential component of the Wild & Scenic River system.

Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI). The National Park Service has compiled and maintains the NRI, a register of river segments that potentially qualify as national wild, scenic or recreational river areas.

If so, is your project a water resources project? A water resources project is a federally assisted project that could affect the free-flowing condition of a wild and scenic river. Examples include dams, water diversion projects, bridges, roadway construction or reconstruction, boat ramps, and activities that require a Section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. **Yes** **No**

If so, could the project do any of the following?

- Have a direct and adverse effect within wild and scenic river boundaries
- Invade the area or unreasonably diminish the river outside wild and scenic river boundaries
- Have an adverse effect on the natural, cultural, and/or recreational values of an NRI segment

Consultation with the appropriate federal, state, local, and/or tribal Managing Agency is required, pursuant to Section 7 of the Act, to determine if the proposed project may have an adverse effect on a wild and scenic river or a study river and, if so, to determine the appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures. The Managing Agency for a particular river segment generally is the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; for some river

segments, a state agency, tribe, or a local government may also be a Managing Agency. For rivers listed in the NRI, the National Park Service (NPS) is the point of contact. Under Section 5 of the Act, the NPS can provide recommendations that the Responsible Entity must take into account in protecting the listed river segment.

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ Evidence the proposed action is not within proximity to a designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational River
- ☐ Documentation that contact was made with the Federal (or state) agency that has administrative responsibility for management of the river and that the proposed action will not affect river designation or is not inconsistent with the management and land use plan for the designated river area

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18th Century Vegetation of Ohio

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Scenic Rivers

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Natural Areas Newsletter

Ohio Rivers Symposium

Ohio Botanical Symposium

Documents

LIST OF OHIO'S SCENIC RIVERS



LITTLE BEAVER CREEK

LITTLE MIAMI RIVER

MAUMEE RIVER

MOHICAN RIVER

Two segments of the Mohican River were designated as Scenic in December 2006

- The Clear Fork of the Mohican River from the base of the Pleasant Hill Dam to the confluence with the Black Fork of the Mohican River - 4.8 river miles.
- The entire main stem of the Mohican River from the confluence of the Clear Fork to the confluence with the Kokosing State Scenic River - 27.5 miles

Miles designated (approximate): 32

OLENTANGY RIVER

PYMATUNING CREEK

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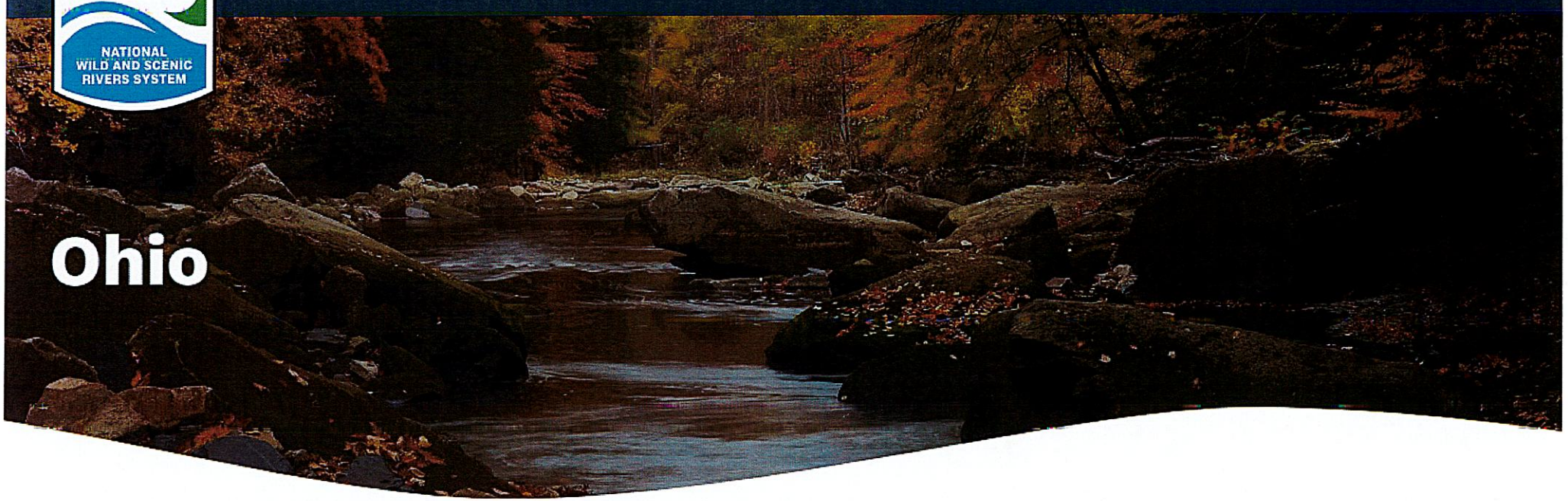


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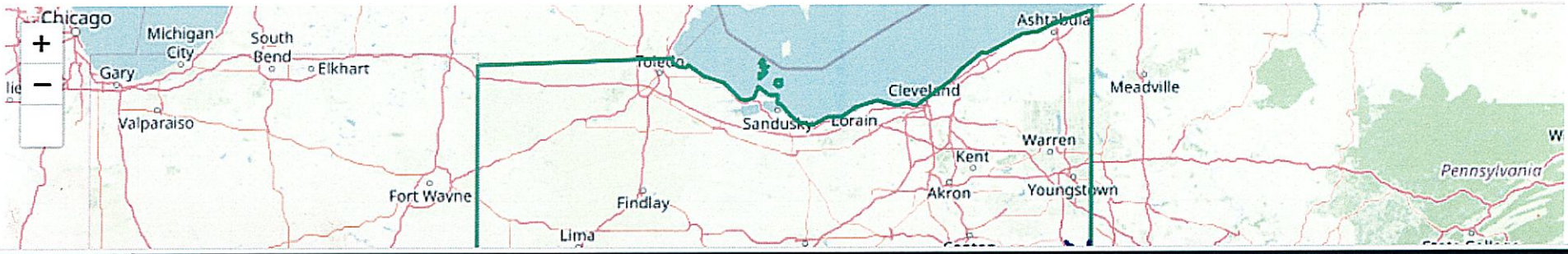


Ohio

The state of Ohio takes its name from the Ohio River, which, in turn, originated from the Seneca word ohi:yo', meaning "good river." Ohio is a water-rich state bounded on the south by the Ohio River and the north by Lake Erie. Thousands of miles of inland streams and rivers contribute to the quality of life of Ohio's citizens.

Significant rivers within the state include the Cuyahoga River, Great Miami River, Maumee River, Muskingum River, and Scioto River. The rivers in the northern part of the state drain into the northern Atlantic Ocean via Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence River, and the rivers in the southern part of the state drain into the Gulf of Mexico via the Ohio River and then the Mississippi.

Ohio has approximately 29,113 miles of river, of which 212.9 miles are designated as wild and scenic—less than 1% of the state's river miles.



37°F Partly sun



Rivers In Ohio



Big & Little Darby Creeks
Ohio



Little Beaver Creek
Ohio



Little Miami River
Ohio

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality

Introduction

The Clean Air Act was implemented to remedy the damaging effects that bad air quality can have on human health and the environment. Although it is a federal act applied nationally, much of the work and planning is done at the state and local level to tailor air quality requirements to local needs. The Act was most recently revised in 1990, when major changes were enacted.

The Clean Air Act is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These are limits on certain "criteria" air pollutants, including limits on how much of these pollutants can be in the air anywhere in the United States. Geographic areas that are in compliance with standards are called "attainment areas," while areas that do not meet standards are called "nonattainment" areas. The location of areas designated by U.S. EPA as polluted under the Clean Air Act is documented in the U.S. EPA's **Green Book on Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants**.

In addition to the EPA, the Clean Air Act is administered by state, tribal, and local agencies, which are responsible for developing local solutions to air quality problems. States must develop State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to regulate their state air quality.

In order to show compliance with the NAAQS, projects funded by HUD must demonstrate that they conform to the appropriate SIP.

HUD Guidance

___ Does your project include new construction or conversion of land use facilitating the development of public, commercial, or industrial facilities OR five or more dwelling units?

Federal projects must conform to Clean Air Act requirements if they may constitute a significant new source of air pollution. If your project does not involve new construction or conversion of land use as indicated above, it can be assumed that its emissions are below de minimis levels and the project is in compliance with the Act.

If so, is your project's county or air quality management district in nonattainment or maintenance status for any criteria pollutants? Yes No

Refer to the EPA's **Green Book on Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants** to determine the compliance status of the county or air quality management district where you project is located for each criteria pollutant.

If your project's county or air quality management district is in attainment status for all criteria pollutants, the project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act. Otherwise, determine which criteria pollutants are in nonattainment or maintenance status and proceed to step 3.

If so, do estimated emissions levels for your project exceed de minimis emissions levels for the nonattainment or maintenance level pollutants? Yes No

In a nonattainment or maintenance area, a conformity determination is required for each pollutant where the project's total direct and indirect emissions exceed *de minimis* levels. You can contact your Air Quality District for help with making this determination and to obtain documentation, or you may make the determination yourself by locating the applicable *de minimis* levels and estimating the levels of your project.

Refer to EPA's Conformity determination thresholds at **40 CFR 93.153** to determine the *de minimis* level for each nonattainment or maintenance level pollutant. Emissions modeling sites, such as caleemod.com, as well as EPA Conformity determination thresholds at **40 CFR 93.153** may assist with determining estimated emissions levels of your project. Again, you may also contact your Air Quality District for assistance. Correspondence from the Air Quality District may serve as documentation for purposes of this question.

If the project's estimated emissions levels are below *de minimis* levels for all nonattainment or maintenance pollutants, the project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act and no further action is required. Record all estimated emissions levels as well as all documents used to make your determination in the Environmental Review Record.

If the estimated emissions levels exceed *de minimis* levels, determine whether the project can be brought into compliance with the SIP through modification or mitigation.

If the project cannot be brought into compliance with the SIP, it cannot proceed as designed.

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ A determination that the project does not include new construction or conversion of land use facilitating the development of public, commercial, or industrial facilities OR five or more dwelling units
- ☐ Documentation that the project's county or air quality management district is not in nonattainment or maintenance status for any criteria pollutants
- ☐ Evidence that estimated emissions levels for the project do not exceed de minimis emissions levels for the nonattainment or maintenance level pollutants
- ☐ A determination that the project can be brought into compliance with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) through modification or mitigation, including documentation on how the project can be brought into compliance

FARMLAND PROTECTION

Farmlands Protection

Introduction

The importance of farmlands to the national and local economy requires the consideration of the impact of activities on land adjacent to prime or unique farmlands. The purpose of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq, implementing regulations 7 CFR Part 658, of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended) is to minimize the effect of Federal programs on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses.

The Act does not apply to projects already in or committed to urban development or those that could otherwise not convert farmland to non-agricultural uses. However, land that meets the definition of prime or unique farmlands or is determined to be of statewide or local significance (with concurrence by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture) is subject to the Act. In some states agricultural lands are protected from development by agricultural districting, zoning provisions, or special tax districts.

HUD Guidance

___ Does your project include any activities, including new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land, or conversion, that could potentially convert one land use to another? Federal projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland to a non-agricultural use. A finding of compliance with the requirements of the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.) must be made for assisted new construction activities, the acquisition of undeveloped land, and conversion projects.

If so, does your project meet one of the following exemptions?

- ☐ Construction limited to on-farm structures needed for farm operations
- ☐ Construction limited to new minor secondary (accessory) structures such as a garage or storage shed
- ☐ Project on land used for water storage
- ☐ Project on land already in or committed to urban development (**7 CFR 658.2(a)**)

Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. USDA/NRCS regulations contained at 7 CFR Part 658.2 define "committed to urban development" as land with a density of 30 structures per 40-acre area; lands identified as "urbanized area" (UA) on the Census Bureau Map or as urban area mapped with a "tint overprint" on USGS topographical maps; or as "urban-built-up" on the USDA Important Farmland Maps. Note that land "zoned" for development, i.e. non-agricultural use, does not exempt a project from compliance with the FPPA.

___ If not, does "Important Farmland," including prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide or local importance regulated under the FPPA occur on the project site?

Important Farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and/or land of statewide or local importance. (**7 CFR 658.2(a)**).

- — "Prime farmland" is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Prime farmland includes land that possesses the above characteristics but is being used currently to produce livestock and timber. It does not include land already in or committed to urban development or water storage.
- — "Unique farmland" is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, as determined by the Secretary. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable

farming methods. Examples of such crops include citrus, tree nuts, olives, cranberries, fruits, and vegetables.
— Farmland of statewide or local importance has been determined by the appropriate State or unit of local government agency or agencies to be significant.

Use the following resources to determine whether Important Farmland is present:

- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Web Soil Survey**
- Check with your city or county's planning department and ask them to document if the project is on land regulated by the FPPA (note that zoning important farmland as non-agricultural does not exempt it from FPPA requirements)
- Contact NRCS at the **local USDA service center** or your **NRCS state soil scientist** for assistance

If so, consider alternatives to completing the project on important farmland and means of avoiding impacts to Important Farmland.

Complete form **AD-1006, "Farmland Conversion Impact Rating** " and contact the state soil scientist before sending it to the local NRCS District Conservationist. Preparers of HUD environmental review records must complete Parts I, III, V, VI, and VII of form AD-1006. NRCS will complete Parts II and IV of the form. Part VII combined scores over 160 points require the evaluation of at least one alternative project site. NRCS has 45 days to make a determination. NRCS will return form AD-1006 to you. Corridor projects that go over several tracts, such as railroads, utility lines, highways, etc., require completion of **form NRCS-CPA-106**.

Environmental review record preparers must follow the steps below to complete the farmland conversion impact rating process:

1. HUD/RE must complete Parts I and III of Form AD-1006 and submit it to the local NRCS District Conservationist.
2. NRCS will complete Parts II, IV, and V within 45 calendar days.
3. HUD/RE must complete Parts VI and VII and evaluate the final point scoring.
4. HUD/RE must return a copy of Form 1006 to the NRCS State Soil Scientist or designee and inform them of your determination. Work with NRCS to minimize the impact of the project on the protected farmland.
5. HUD/RE must include the completed form in the ERR documentation

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ A determination that the project does not include any activities, including new construction, acquisition of undeveloped land, or conversion, that could potentially convert one land use to another
- ☐ Evidence that the exemption applies, including all applicable maps
- ☐ Evidence supporting the determination that "Important Farmland," including prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide or local importance regulated under the FPPA does not occur on the project site
- ☐ Documentation of all correspondence with NRCS, including the completed AD-1006 and a description of the consideration of alternatives and means to avoid impacts to Important Farmland

NOISE ABATEMENT

Noise Abatement and Control

Introduction

HUD's noise standards may be found in 24 CFR Part 51, Subpart B. For proposed new construction in high noise areas, the project must incorporate noise mitigation features. Consideration of noise applies to the acquisition of undeveloped land and existing development as well.

All sites whose environmental or community noise exposure exceeds the day night average sound level (DNL) of 65 decibels (dB) are considered noise-impacted areas. For new construction that is proposed in high noise areas, grantees shall incorporate noise attenuation features to the extent required by HUD environmental criteria and standards contained in Subpart B (Noise Abatement and Control) of 24 CFR Part 51. The interior standard is 45dB.

The "Normally Unacceptable" noise zone includes community noise levels from above 65 decibels to 75 decibels. Approvals in this noise zone require a minimum of 5 dB additional sound attenuation for buildings having noise-sensitive uses if the day-night average sound level is greater than 65 dB but does not exceed 70 dB, or a minimum of 10 decibels of additional sound attenuation if the day-night average sound level is greater than 70 dB but does not exceed 75 dB.

Locations with day-night average noise levels above 75 dB have "Unacceptable" noise exposure. For new construction, noise attenuation measures in these locations require the approval of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development (for projects reviewed under Part 50) or the Responsible Entity's Certifying Officer (for projects reviewed under Part 58). The acceptance of such locations normally requires an environmental impact statement.

In "Unacceptable" noise zones, HUD strongly encourages conversion of noise-exposed sites to land uses compatible with the high noise levels.

HUD Guidance

Are there potential noise generators in the vicinity of the project? Yes No

Review general location maps and/or conduct a field review to screen for major roadways (within 1,000 feet), railroads (within 3,000 feet), and military or FAA-regulated airfields (with 15 miles) in the vicinity of the project.

If a noise assessment was performed, was the noise found to be Acceptable, Normally Unacceptable, or Unacceptable?

See Table Next Page

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ Documentation the proposed action is not within 1000 feet of a major roadway, 3,000 feet of a railroad, or 15 miles of a military or FAA-regulated civil airfield
- ☐ If within those distances, documentation showing the noise level is *Acceptable* (at or below 65 DNL)
- ☐ If within those distances, documentation showing that there's an effective noise barrier (i.e., that provides sufficient protection)
- ☐ Documentation showing the noise generated by the noise source(s) is *Normally Unacceptable (66 – 75 DNL)* and identifying noise attenuation requirements that will bring the interior noise level to 45 DNL and/or exterior noise level to 65 DNL

Site Acceptability Standards

Noise Zone	Day-night average sound level (in decibels)	Special approvals and requirements
Acceptable	Not exceeding 65 dB	None
Normally Unacceptable	Above 65 dB but not exceeding 75 dB	• Environmental assessment and attenuation required for new construction • Attenuation strongly encouraged for major rehabilitation Note: An environmental impact statement is required if the project site is largely undeveloped or will encourage incompatible development.
Unacceptable	Above 75 dB	• Environmental impact statement required • Attenuation required for new construction with approval by the Assistant Secretary of CPD or Certifying Officer

AIRPORT CLEAR ZONES

Airport Hazards

Introduction

Some types of development are incompatible for locations in the immediate vicinity of airports and airfields. Potential aircraft accident problems pose a hazard to end users of these development projects. If the proposed project is located near an airport or in the immediate area of the landing and approach zones, additional information is necessary to determine whether this issue is a concern and if so, how to mitigate it.

It is HUD's policy to apply standards to prevent incompatible development around civil airports and military airfields. See **24 CFR 51, Subpart D**. The policies do not apply to research or demonstration projects which do not result in new construction or reconstruction, to interstate land sales registration, or to any action or emergency assistance which is provided to save lives, protect property, protect public health and safety, or remove debris and wreckage.

HUD Guidance

To ensure compatible land use development, you must determine your site's proximity to civil and military airports.

— **Is your project within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport?**

— **If so, is your project located within an Accident Potential Zone (APZ) or Runway Protection Zone/Clear Zone (RPZ/CZ)?**

Accident Potential Zone (APZ)

___ **Does your project involve any of the following:** new construction; substantial rehabilitation; acquisition of undeveloped land; activities that would significantly prolong the physical or economic life of existing facilities or change the use of the facility to a use that is not consistent with the recommendations of the Department of Defense (DOD)'s Land Use Compatibility Guidelines; activities that would significantly increase the density or number of people at the site; or activities that would introduce explosive, flammable, or toxic materials to the area?

— **If so, is the project in conformance with DOD guidelines?**

Runway Protection Zone/Clear Zone (RPZ/CZ)

— **Will this project involve any facilities that will be frequently used or occupied by people?**

— **If so, were written assurances from the airport operator obtained?**

If this project involves the acquisition or sale of an existing property that will be frequently used or occupied by people, you must provide written notice to the prospective buyer to inform them of the potential hazards from airplane accidents as well as the potential for the property to be purchased as part of an airport expansion project in accordance with 24 CFR 51.303(a)(3). (See **Sample Notice to Prospective Buyers**.) The written notice should inform the prospective property buyer of: (i) the potential hazards from airplane accidents, which are more likely to occur within clear zones than in other areas around the airport/airfield; and (ii) the potential acquisition by airport or airfield operators, who may wish to purchase the property at some point in the future as part of a clear zone acquisition program.

HUD assistance may not be used at this location if project involves new construction, substantial rehabilitation, acquisition of undeveloped land, or activities that would significantly prolong the physical or economic life of existing facilities that will be frequently used or occupied by people.

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ Documentation that the rule is not applicable to the proposed project (i.e., acquisition of an existing building, "minor" rehabilitation, or emergency action)
- ☐ A map showing the site is not within 15,000 feet of a military airport or within 2,500 feet of a civilian airport
- ☐ If within 15,000 feet of a military airport, a map showing the site is not within a designated APZ or a letter from the airport operator stating so
- ☐ If within 2,500 feet of a civilian airport, a map showing the site is not within a designated RPZ/CZ or a letter from the airport operator stating so
- ☐ If the site is in a designated APZ, documentation of consistency with DOD Land Use Compatibility Guidelines
- ☐ If the site is in a designated RPZ/CZ and the project does not involve any facilities that will be frequently used or occupied by people, and a determination of such and a written assurance from the airport operator that there are no plans to purchase the land as part of a RPZ/CZ program
- ☐ If the site is in a designated RPZ/CZ and the project involves the acquisition or sale of an existing property that will be frequently used or occupied by people, a copy of the notice to prospective buyers signed by the prospective buyer

https://www.militarybases.us/bases-in-the-state-of-ohio/

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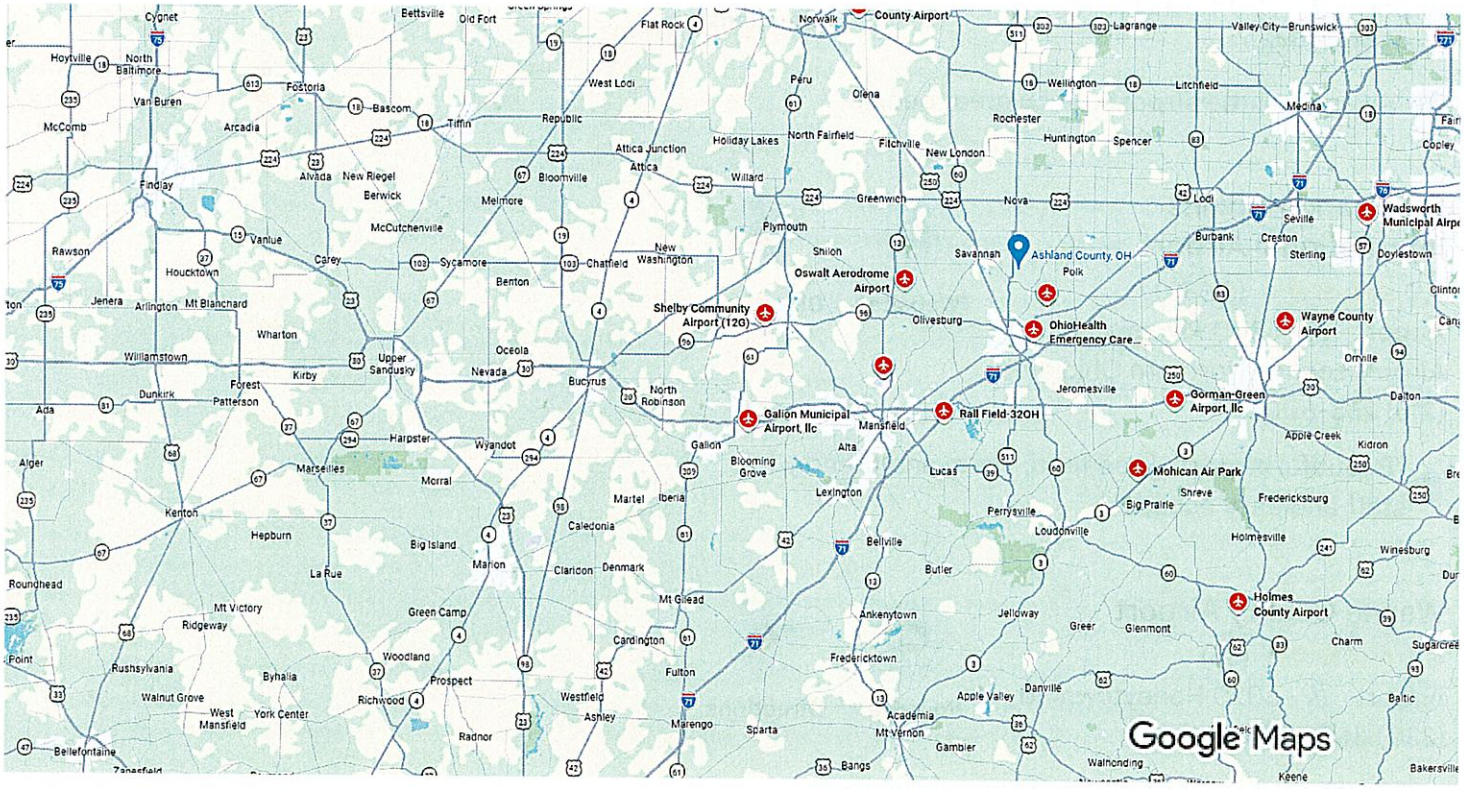

Camp Shelby

Bases In The State of New Jersey

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Ashland County Airport

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Airport · ♿ · 700 Township Rd 1102

(419) 289-0000

Website Directions

"Amazing Staff and Experience"

Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport

4.6 ★★★★½ (42)

Regional airport · ♿ · 2000 Harrington Memorial Rd

(419) 522-2191

Website Directions

Holmes County Airport

4.8 ★★★★★ (12)

Airport · ♿ · 4501 Township Rd 307

(330) 674-0674

Directions

"Friendly people and nice looking aircraft!"

Columbia Airport

4.8 ★★★★★ (9)

Airport · ♿ · 27410 Royalton Rd

(440) 236-8800

Website Directions

"Very close to popular local areas."

EXPLOSIVES AND FLAMMABLE FACILITIES

Explosive and Flammable Facilities

Introduction

There are inherent potential dangers associated with locating HUD-assisted projects near hazardous facilities which store, handle, or process hazardous substances of a flammable or explosive nature. Project sites located too close to facilities handling, storing or processing conventional fuels, hazardous gases or chemicals of an explosive or flammable nature may expose occupants or end-users of a project to the risk of injury in the event of an explosion.

Blast overpressure and thermal radiation standards are used as a basis for calculating acceptable separation distances (ASDs) for HUD-assisted projects from specific, stationary hazardous operations which store, handle, or process substances of fire or explosive prone nature. HUD-assisted projects must meet ASDs or else mitigation measures must be undertaken.

HUD Guidance

When considering explosive and flammable facilities in the context of HUD-assisted projects, two lines of inquiry are appropriate:

1. Aboveground stationary storage tanks near the project

- **Does this project include any of the following activities: development, construction, rehabilitation that will increase residential densities, or conversion?**
- **If so, within 1 mile of the project site, are there any current *or planned* stationary aboveground storage containers:**
  - Of more than 100 gallon capacity, containing common liquid industrial fuels OR
  - Of any capacity, containing hazardous liquids or gases that are not common liquid industrial fuels?

For a list of common industrial fuels, consult Appendix I of the Regulation and HUD's guidebook **Acceptable Separation Distance**. Sources of information on tank capacity and contents include, but are not limited to, direct observation, the property/facility owner/operator, the local Fire Department, and the local Emergency Planning Committee.

- **If such aboveground tanks are present, do any of the following exceptions apply?**
  - ☐ Stationary aboveground containers that store natural gas and have floating tops
  - ☐ Underground storage containers, mobile conveyances (tank trucks, barges, railroad tank cars), and pipelines, such as high pressure natural gas transmission pipelines or liquid petroleum pipelines
  - ☐ Aboveground storage tanks that are part of a one to four unit single-family FHA-insured property
  - ☐ Aboveground storage tanks containing liquified petroleum gas ("LPG" or propane) when they are 1,000 gallons or less in volume and comply with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Code 58, version 2017 (NFPA 58 (2017)). Further guidance on the exclusion for LPG and propane is provided in the **Fact Sheet: Final Propane Rule - 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C** and **Sample Memo: Documentation of Compliance with NFPA 58 (2017)**.

___ **Is the Separation Distance from the project acceptable based on standards in the regulation?**

For proposed development activities in proximity to aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) that are not excluded by the exceptions listed, the Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD) can be calculated based on the volume of the container, the contents, and whether or not the container is diked. If there are multiple such tanks to consider, use the **Fact Sheet: Determining Which Tanks to Evaluate for ASD**. Once the volume of the container (gallons), dike dimensions, and phase of state of the product (liquid or gas) are known, the ASD can be calculated using the **electronic calculator**.

The ASD is measured from the center of the assessed container to the perimeter of the proposed HUD–assisted project site. If the ASD is not met, mitigation is required, or another site must be considered. Mitigation options are discussed in the HUD guidebook **Acceptable Separation Distance**.

If the separation distance is not acceptable, a barrier is required to mitigate the project. Otherwise, the project should be moved to a different location. Work with a licensed engineer to determine whether an existing barrier (natural or man-made) is sufficient mitigation or to design a barrier. For more guidance on barriers and mitigation, contact Nelson Rivera, a licensed engineer at HUD, at **nelson.a.rivera@hud.gov** or 202-402-4455.

2. Hazardous facilities included in the project

— **Does the proposed HUD-assisted project include a hazardous facility (a facility that mainly stores, handles or processes flammable or combustible chemicals such as bulk fuel storage facilities and refineries)?**

— **If so, is the hazardous facility located at an acceptable separation distance from residences and any other facility or area where people may congregate or be present?** See guidance above on calculating the ASD.

Compliance and Documentation

The environmental review record should include:

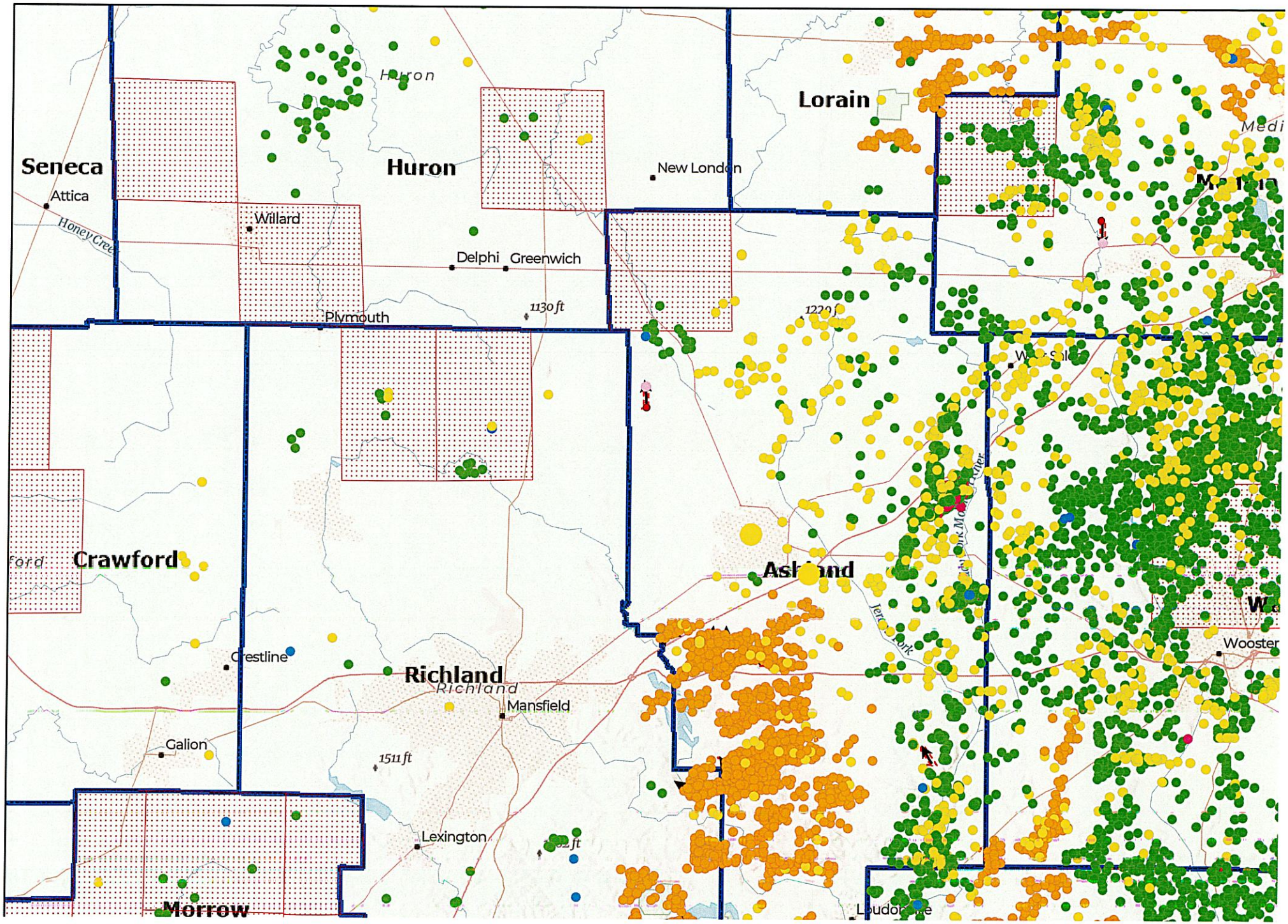
One of the following on aboveground storage tanks in proximity to the proposed HUD-assisted project site:

- ☐ A determination that the project does not include development, construction, rehabilitation that will increase residential densities, or conversion
- ☐ Evidence that within one mile of the project site there are no current or planned stationary aboveground storage containers except:
  - Containers less than 100-gallons capacity containing common liquid industrial fuels
  - Containers that are 1,000 gallons or less water volume capacity and in compliance with NFPA 58 (2017)
- ☐ For all other containers within the search distance, a determination along with all supporting documentation that the separation distance of such containers from the project is acceptable
- ☐ Documentation of mitigation verified by a licensed engineer

AND one of the following on hazardous facilities:

- ☐ A determination that the project does not include a hazardous facility
- ☐ A determination along with all supporting documentation that the hazardous facility is located at an acceptable separation distance from residences and any other facility or area where people may congregate or be present
- ☐ Documentation of the existing or planned barrier that would serve as sufficient mitigation, including correspondence with a licensed engineer

Ohio Oil & Gas Wells Map



SITE CONTAMINIATION

Site Contamination

Introduction

It is HUD policy, as described in 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) and 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2), that:

1. All property proposed for use in HUD programs be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gasses, and radioactive substances, where a hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property.
2. Environmental review of multifamily and non-residential properties shall include evaluation of previous uses of the site and other evidence of contamination on or near the site, to assure that occupants of proposed sites are not adversely affected by the hazards.
3. Particular attention should be given to any proposed site on or in the general proximity of such areas as dumps, landfills, industrial sites, or other locations that contain, or may have contained, hazardous wastes.
4. The responsible entity shall use current techniques by qualified professionals to undertake investigations determined necessary

It is therefore essential that responsible entities, potential grant applicants, and other HUD program participants become familiar with the potential environmental issues involving property before leasing, optioning, and/or acquiring the property. Unknowing individuals or parties that acquire contaminated property with good intentions could face liability for clean-up costs under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), third party lawsuits, and costly delays in implementing the project.

HUD Guidance

___ Were any on-site or nearby toxic, hazardous, or radioactive substances found that could affect the health and safety of project occupants or conflict with the intended use of the property?

Sites known or suspected to be contaminated by toxic chemicals or radioactive materials include but are not limited to sites: (i) listed on an EPA Superfund National Priorities or CERCLA List, or equivalent State list; (ii) located within 3,000 feet of a toxic or solid waste landfill site; or (iii) with an underground storage tank. For any of these conditions, the grantee must provide an ASTM Phase I report.

FHA-insured projects should refer to program guidance and to Chapter 9 of the MAP (Multifamily Accelerated Processing) Guide to comply with toxics and site contamination. Non-FHA projects should identify the potential for hazardous substances or materials that may affect the health and safety of the users of the property as follows:

- Review databases maintained by U.S. EPA and state, local, and tribal environmental quality departments or agencies to screen for potential *on-site* and *off-site* facilities that could pose health and safety problems and toxic clean-up sites that are presently under analysis or remediation.
- Investigate previous uses of the site. Site inspections and building and use permit records as well as Sanborn Co. maps show previous land uses which could have left toxic residues. Other methods of evaluation include performing a site walk, interviewing property owners or managers and local officials, and analyzing local land use records, permits, and violations.
- When site conditions indicate that the subject property is contaminated or likely contaminated by toxic substances, hazardous materials or petroleum products, one shall provide an ASTM certified Phase I ESA report, or other studies where applicable. Any hazards that are identified should be evaluated for the potential to affect the health and safety of the occupants and end-users. Contact your local HUD field environmental officer for further technical assistance in this regard.

___ Can adverse environmental impacts be mitigated?

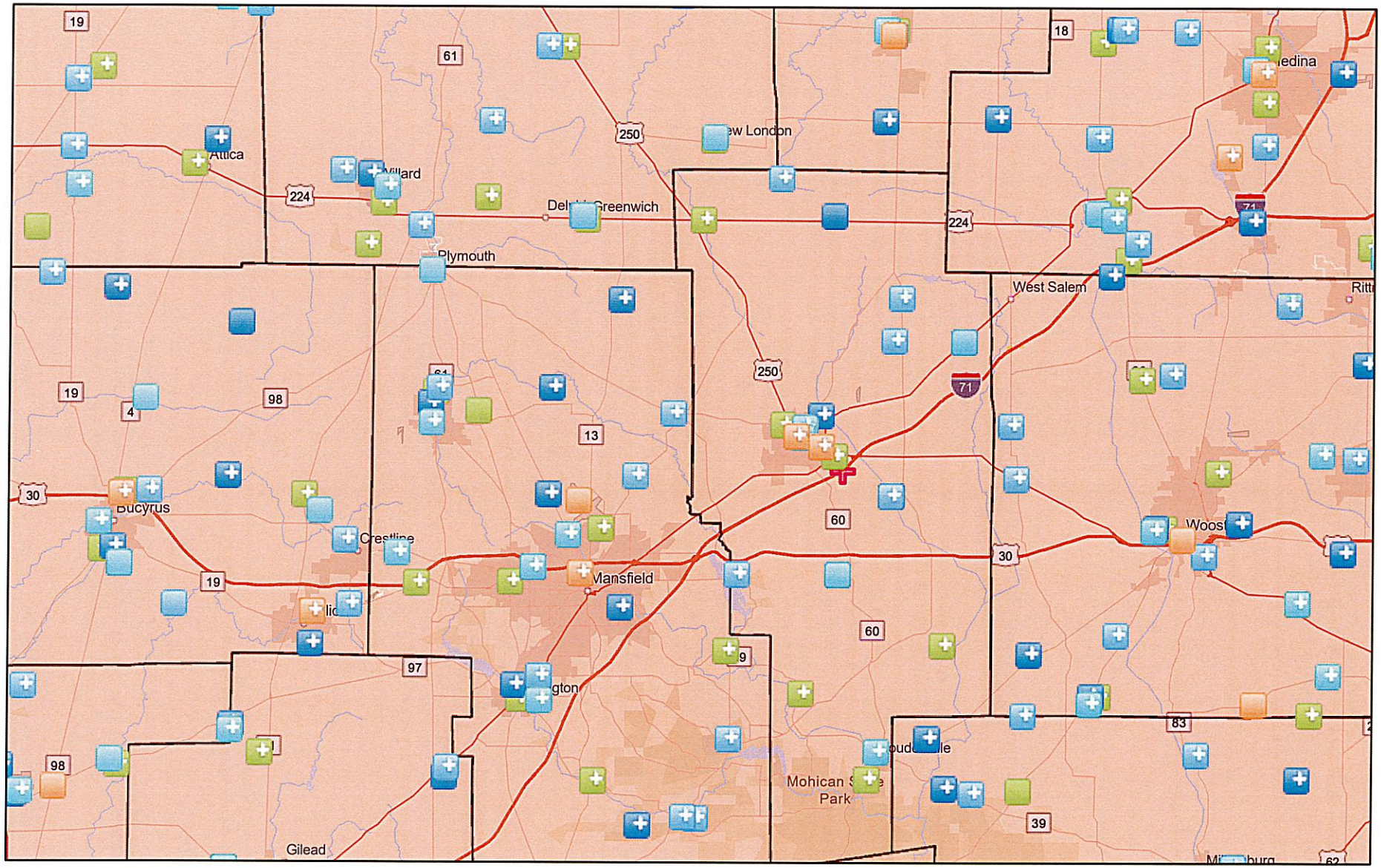
Use mitigation to prevent the hazard from affecting the health and safety or project occupants, or remediate the contaminated property and work with the appropriate state agency.

Compliance and Documentation

For non-FHA-insured programs, the environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ Evidence the site is not contaminated (for multifamily housing projects this includes on site and off site contamination and previous uses of the site); a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment is strongly encouraged for multifamily and non-residential projects
- ☐ Evidence supporting a determination the hazard will not affect health and safety of the occupants or conflict with the intended use of the site, including any mitigation measures used
- ☐ Documentation the site has been cleaned up according to EPA or state standards for residential properties, which requires a letter of "No Further Action" (NFA) required from the appropriate state department/agency, or a RAO letter from the LSRP

Ashland County EPA Map



March 2, 2026

- Brownfields (ACRES)
- Brownfields (ACRES)
- Toxic Releases (TRI)
- Toxic Releases (TRI)
- Water Dischargers (NPDES)
- Water Dischargers (NPDES)
- Air Pollution (ICIS-AIR)
- Air Pollution (ICIS-AIR)
- Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)
- Hazardous Waste (RCRAInfo)
- NFHL Data Available
- Search Result (point)
- Counties

1:577,791

0 3.75 7.5 15 mi

0 5 10 20 km

EPA OEI, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental Justice

Introduction

Environmental justice means ensuring that the environment and human health are protected fairly for all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income. Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations" (2/94) requires certain federal agencies, including HUD, to consider how federally assisted projects may have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

Environmental justice is an integral part of HUD's mission. The Department works with multiple stakeholders and other federal agencies in its efforts to assure environmental justice concerns are addressed.

HUD Guidance

- **Does the project create adverse environmental impacts?**
- **If so, are these adverse environmental impacts disproportionately high for low-income and/or minority communities?**
- **How did the project sponsor reach out to the community to identify mitigation measures to resolve adverse impacts?**
- **Can the adverse impacts be mitigated?** Engage the affected community in meaningful participation about mitigating the impacts or move the project to another community.

Compliance and Documentation

Review land use plans, census information and the U.S. EPA Environmental Justice webpage (EJ View). Consider local government sources such as the health department or school district that may be more current or focused on the neighborhood as their unit of analysis.

The environmental review record should contain **one** of the following:

- ☐ Evidence that the site or surrounding neighborhood does not suffer from adverse environmental conditions and evidence that the proposed action will not create an adverse and disproportionate environmental impact or aggravate an existing impact. (Describe how the proposed action will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on minority or low-income populations.)
- ☐ Evidence that the project is not in an environmental justice community of concern (demographics, income, etc.) or evidence that the project does not disproportionately affect a low-income or minority population
- ☐ If there are adverse effects on low-income or minority populations, documentation that that the affected community residents have been meaningfully informed and involved in a participatory planning process to address (remove, minimize, or mitigate) the adverse effect from the project and the resulting changes

NOTICES AND RROF

Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF)

Instructions and General Requirements

Insert local information and dates in the areas bracketed with parentheses in the Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (NOI/RROF) template. Example: (Name of Responsible Entity).

- The NOI/RROF must be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least once for projects that are **Categorically Excluded, Subject to 58.5** [24 CFR 58.35 (a)]. The publication must include the complete title and body of the notice.

- The NOI/RROF may only be published when the Environmental Review Record (ERR) is complete and has been signed by the preparer.

- The notice must specify, at a minimum, a 7-calendar day period during which persons may evaluate and comment on the ERR. The first day the notice is published is considered day "0;" if the 7th day falls on a weekend or holiday, the period must be extended to the next business day. **The ERR must be readily available for public inspection either 1) onsite at the responsible entity's offices or 2) on the responsible entity's official website on the first day of the comment period and must remain available until the end of the 7-day comment period**. The responsible entity must also provide the ERR upon request electronically via email.

- No portion of the aggregated project may commence, and no funds may be committed, until OCD issues a release of environmental conditions (ROF).

- Prior to submitting a Request for Release of Funds and Certification (RROF), the Responsible Entity must consider any comments received during the published local comment period and, if necessary, make final revisions to the ERR. The Responsible Entity's RROF may be only be signed by the certifying officer after due consideration of all comments.

- At least one business day after the last day of the local comment period, the Responsible Entity may email 1) a signed copy of the RROF; 2) a copy of the published NOI/RROF (as it actually appeared in the newspaper); and, if applicable, 3) any other environmental Notices (e.g. Floodplain Management notices) published in association with the project(s), to OCD@development.ohio.gov.

- OCD observes a 15-day comment period beginning the date it receives a valid, executed RROF and associated NOI/RROF.

- OCD will issue an ROF after the 15-day comment period following the receipt of the RROF and successful resolution of any objections received. OCD will not mail a hard copy of the ROF. **Responsible entities may view and download ROF documents in OCEAN**.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

March 4, 2026

Ashland County Commissioners
110 Cottage Street, Ashland Ohio 44805
(419)282-4220

City of Ashland
206 Claremont Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805
(419)289-8622

To All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals:

On or about, but not before, March 16, 2026, the Ashland County Commissioners **and** the City of Ashland will submit a request to the State of Ohio for the release of Federal funds under Section 104 (g) of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; Section 288 of Title II of the Cranston Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act (NAHA), as amended; and/or Title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, as amended; to be used for the following project(s):

Project Name: PY2025 CHIP Program
Source of Funds: CDBG, HOME, Ashland County HOME Program Income Funds
and Ashland City HOME Program Income Funds
Activities will include Owner Rehabilitation and Owner Home Repair
This will be a multi-year project
Located in Ashland County
The Estimated Cost of the Project is $848,200

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for the project(s) is available for review on Ashland County's Website at www.ashlandcountyoh.us and upon the City of Ashland's Website at www.ashland-ohio.com The ERR may also be provided upon request electronically via email. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to Ashland County Commissioners at 110 Cottage Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805 or by email to mwelch@ashlandcounty.org **or** the City of Ashland at 206 Claremont Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805 or by email to mayor@ashland-ohio.com .

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Ashland County Commissioners **or** the City of Ashland by U.S. mail or email at the addresses above. All comments received before March 16,2026 will be considered by the Ashland County Commissioners and the City of Ashland prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Ashland County Commissioners and the City of Ashland certifies to the State of Ohio that Michael E. Welch, President of the Commissioners, and Matt Miller, Mayor of the City in *their* capacity as President of County Commissioners and Mayor of Ashland consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The State of Ohio's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Ashland County Commissioners and City of Ashland to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The State of Ohio will accept objections to its release of funds and the (Responsible Entity's) certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Ashland County Commissioners or the City of Ashland; (b) the Ashland County Commissioners and the City of Ashland has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the State of Ohio; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Ohio Department of Development, Office of Community Development at OCD@development.ohio.gov. Potential objectors should contact the State of Ohio to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Michael E. Welch, President of the Commissioners
Matt Miller, Mayor of Ashland