



Connecticut DOT
Bureau of Policy and Planning

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POLICY & PLANNING BULLETIN

Bureau Chief

Updated Categorical Exclusion Programmatic Agreement and Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Effective January 25, 2021, CTDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) signed an updated Programmatic Agreement for the processing of Categorical Exclusions (CE). This Agreement continues to allow CTDOT to approve certain Categorical Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The goal of the revisions was to provide a more streamlined process for processing all types of CEs, particularly Individual CEs; and ultimately to reduce the number of CEs that require approval by FHWA. Note that the Programmatic Agreement and CE checklist is only applicable to FHWA projects and should not be used for state-funded projects or projects for which FHWA is not the lead federal agency.

Since completion of the training sessions held by the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) in late 2020, minor changes were incorporated into the CE checklist as a result of FHWA's legal review to document if a project involves Unusual Circumstances, as defined in [23 CFR 771.117\(b\)](#). An additional section (Part 4) was added to the CE checklist to document this, and the information required for the designer to complete this section will be taken directly from the Environmental Review as determined by OEP. The final page of the Environmental Review has been revised to reflect these changes in the CE Checklist.

Additionally, to further streamline the Environmental Review process, OEP revised the Environmental Review Request Form to eliminate redundancy and to remove any items that did not add any value to the review process.

OEP compiled the various questions received during the training sessions and drafted a supplemental guidance document to address changes in the process and answer questions received during the training sessions. That document can be accessed by clicking the link below.

Links to the various documents can be found at www.ct.gov/environmentaldocuments or by clicking the links below:

- [Programmatic Agreement for Processing CEs including CE checklist and Detailed Instructions](#)
- [Environmental Review Request Form](#)
- [Supplemental Guidance Document including FAQ's](#)

Additionally, a stream of one of the training sessions can be found here:
[2021 Categorical Exclusion PA Training](#)

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Kevin Fleming at Kevin.Fleming@ct.gov or Mark Marseglia at Mark.Marseglia@ct.gov.
