

HUD Environmental Review Training

24 CFR Part 58

Mississippi Home Corporation

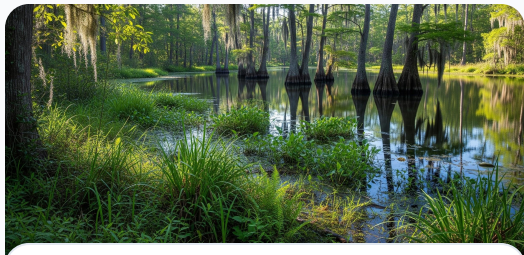
 HOME Program

 ESG Program

 HTF Programs

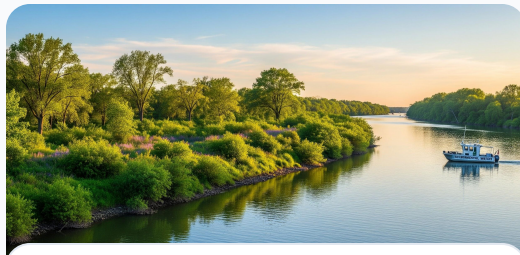


Why Environmental Review Matters



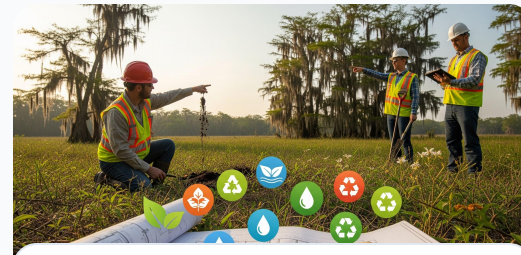
Financial Compliance

Required before committing or expending any HUD or non-HUD funds on project activities.



Risk Mitigation

Ensures the project doesn't negatively impact the environment or the health and safety of occupants.



Process Integrity

Identifies potential issues early to prevent costly delays and legal complications during development.

What Triggers a Review



Property Acquisition

Purchasing land or buildings for HUD-funded projects.



Rehab or Construction

Renovating existing structures or new building activities.



Demolition

Tearing down structures on site before or during a project.



Leasing

Executing lease agreements for residential or commercial use.

Choice-Limiting Actions



Signing Contracts

Committing to legal agreements before environmental clearance is prohibited under HUD regulations.



Starting Construction

Any physical site work, including clearing, grading, or building, cannot begin until the review is complete.



Acquiring Property

The purchase of land or buildings is a choice-limiting action that triggers the need for a prior review.

Levels of Review



Exempt

Activities with no physical impact or environmental effect.



Categorically Excluded

Pre-defined actions known not to individually or cumulatively have significant effects.



Environmental Assessment

Concise analysis to determine if an EIS or a Finding of No Significant Impact is required.



EIS

Detailed statement for major actions significantly affecting environmental quality.



Environmental Review Record (ERR)



Project Description

A comprehensive narrative of the project's scope, purpose, and physical location.



Maps & Photos

Visual evidence including site maps, aerial photos, and ground-level documentation of the project area.



Compliance Docs

All written assessments, findings, and related correspondence required by environmental laws.

Key Compliance Areas



Floodplain

Assessment of flood hazard risks and adherence to executive orders regarding development in flood-prone zones.



Historic Preservation

Evaluation of project impacts on historic properties or archaeological sites under Section 106.



Phase I ESA

Environmental Site Assessment to identify potential or existing environmental contamination liabilities.

Floodplain Requirements



Regulatory Updates

New rules apply to all floodplain-related environmental reviews.

- Updated compliance standards
- Revised impact assessments



Compliance Pathway

An 8-step decision-making process may be required for specific projects.

- Public notification phases
- Alternative site analysis

STEPS TO CLEARANCE



01. Define project

Establish the core scope and environmental parameters for the clearance process.



02. Complete review

Execute a thorough environmental review to ensure all compliance requirements are met.



03. Request funds release

Submit necessary documentation to formalize the request for fund disbursement.



04. Get approval




Receive final authorization and clearance to proceed with project activities.

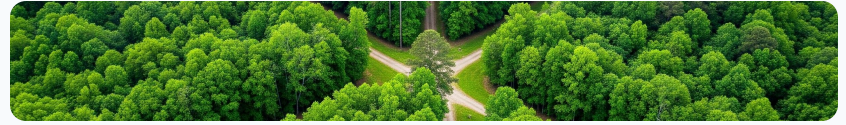


MISTAKES & STRATEGIES






Common Mistakes

-  **Starting too early**
Initiating before defined scope leads to wasted effort.
-  **Missing documentation**
Incomplete records significantly delay final clearance.
-  **Inaccurate review level**
Failing to identify thresholds causes project holds.



Practical Strategies

-  **Start early**
Allow for buffer time once scope is defined.
-  **Stay organized**
Maintain central records of findings and maps.
-  **Communicate**
Consult with environmental officers regularly.

TECHNOLOGY TOOLS



FEMA Maps

Utilize flood hazard mapping to identify risk zones and ensure compliance.



EPA Databases

Access environmental data to assess soil, water, and air quality standards.



Google Maps

Analyze site location, proximity to protected areas, and terrain.

WRAP-UP



No clearance = No project

Final reminder: Project activity cannot proceed without official environmental clearance.



Document everything

Maintain thorough records of all reviews, communications, and approvals for compliance audit trails.



Ask questions

When in doubt, consult with environmental officers to ensure full regulatory alignment.