

filed with DOE containing non-public location, character, and ownership information about cultural resources.

(i) Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.13, any person submitting information during the IIP Process that the person believes might contain Critical Electric Infrastructure Information (CEII) should submit a request for CEII designation of information.

### **§ 900.5 Initiation of IIP Process.**

(a) *Initiation request.* A project proponent shall submit an initiation request to DOE. The project proponent may decide when to submit the initiation request. The initiation request must include, based on best available information:

(1) A summary of the proposed electric transmission project, as described by paragraph (b) of this section;

(2) Associated maps, geospatial information, and studies (provided in electronic format), as described by paragraph (c) of this section;

(3) A project participation plan, as described by paragraph (d) of this section; and

(4) A statement regarding the proposed project's status pursuant to Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41) (42 U.S.C. 4370m-2(b)(2)), as described by paragraph (e) of this section.

(b) *Summary of the proposed project.* The summary of the proposed electric transmission project may not exceed 10 single-spaced pages unless the project proponent requests a waiver of the page limit, including a rationale for the waiver, and DOE grants the waiver. The summary must include:

(1) The following information:

(i) The project proponent's legal name and principal place of business;

(ii) The project proponent's contact information and designated point(s) of contact;

(iii) Whether the project proponent is an individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity and, if applicable, the State laws under which the project proponent is organized or authorized; and

(iv) If the project proponent resides or has its principal office outside the United States, documentation related to designation by irrevocable power of attorney of an agent residing within the United States;

(2) A statement of the project proponent's interests and objectives;

(3) To the extent available, copies of or links to:

(i) Any regional electric transmission planning documents, regional reliability studies, regional congestion or other related studies that relate to the proposed project or the need for the proposed project; and

(ii) Any relevant interconnection requests;

(4) A description of potential study corridors and routes identified by the project proponent and a brief description of the evaluation criteria and methods used by the project proponent to identify and develop those corridors and routes;

(5) A brief description of the proposed project, including end points, voltage, ownership, intermediate substations if applicable, and, to the extent known, any information about constraints or flexibility with respect to the proposed project;

(6) Identification of any environmental and engineering firms and sub-contractors under contract to develop the proposed project;

(7) The project proponent's proposed schedule for filing necessary Federal and State applications, construction start date, and planned in-service date, assuming receipt of all necessary authorizations; and

(8) A list of anticipated relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities, including contact information for each Federal agency, State agency, Indian Tribe, or multi-State

entity that is responsible for or has a role in issuing an authorization or environmental review for the proposed project.

(c) *Maps, geospatial information, and studies.* The initiation request must include maps, geospatial information, and studies in support of the information provided in the summary of the proposed project under paragraph (b) of this section. Maps must be of sufficient detail to identify the study corridors and potential routes. Project proponents must provide the maps, information, and studies as electronic data files that may be readily accessed by relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities. The maps, information, and studies described in this paragraph (c) must include:

(1) Location maps and plot plans to scale showing all major components, including a description of zoning and site availability for any permanent facilities; cultural resource location information in these materials should be submitted in accordance with § 900.4(h);

(2) A map of the project area showing potential study corridors and potential routes;

(3) Existing data or studies relevant to the summary of the proposed project; and

(4) Citations identifying sources, data, and analyses used to develop the summary of the proposed project.

(d) *Project participation plan.* The project participation plan, which may not exceed 10, single-spaced pages, summarizes the outreach that the project proponent conducted prior to submission of the initiation request, and describes the project proponent's planned outreach to communities of interest going forward. A supplemental appendix may be submitted to provide sufficient detail in addition to the narrative elements. The project participation plan must include:

(1) A summary of prior outreach to communities of interest and stakeholders including:

(i) A description of what work already has been done, including stakeholder and community outreach and public engagement, as well as any entities and organizations interested in the proposed electric transmission project;

(ii) A list of environmental, engineering, public affairs, other contractors or consultants employed by the proponent to facilitate public outreach;

(iii) A description of any materials provided to the public, such as environmental surveys or studies;

(iv) A description of the communities of interest identified and the process by which they were identified;

(v) A general description of the real property interests that would be impacted by the proposed project and the rights that the owners of those property interests would have under State law; and

(vi) A summary of comments received during these previous engagement activities, issues identified by stakeholders, communities of interest (including various resource issues, differing project alternative study corridors or routes, and revisions to routes), and responses provided to commenters, if applicable; and

(2) A public engagement plan, which must:

(i) Describe the project proponent's outreach plan and status of those activities, including planned future activities corresponding to each of the items or issues identified in paragraphs (d)(1)(i) through (vi) of this section, specifying the planned dates or frequency;

(ii) Describe the manner in which the project proponent will reach out to communities of interest about potential mitigation of concerns;

(iii) Describe planned outreach activities during the permitting process, including efforts to identify, and engage, individuals with limited English proficiency and linguistically isolated communities, and provide accommodations for individuals with accessibility needs; and

(iv) Discuss the specific tools and actions used by the project proponent to facilitate public communications and public information, including whether the project proponent will have a readily accessible, easily identifiable, single point of contact.

(e) *FAST-41 statement.* The FAST-41 statement required under paragraph (a) of this section must specify the status of the proposed electric transmission project pursuant to FAST-41 at the time of submission of the initiation request. The statement must either:

(1) State that the project proponent has sought FAST-41 coverage pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4370m-2(a)(1); and state whether the Executive Director of the FPISC has created an entry on the Permitting Dashboard for the project as a covered project pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4370m-2(b)(2)(A); or

(2) State that the project proponent elected not to apply to be a FAST-41 covered project at this time.

(f) *Initiation request determination.* Not later than 20 calendar days after the date that DOE receives an initiation request, DOE shall:

(1) Determine whether the initiation request meets the requirements of this section and, if not previously determined under § 900.3, whether the proposed electric transmission facility is a qualifying project;

(2) Identify the relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities and provide each with an electronic copy of the initiation request; and

(3) Give notice to the project proponent and relevant Federal and non-Federal entities of DOE's determinations under paragraph (f)(1) of this section.

(g) *Deficiencies.* If DOE determines under paragraph (f)(1) of this section that the initiation request does not meet the requirements of this section, DOE must provide the reasons for that finding and a description of how the project proponent may, if applicable, address any deficiencies in the initiation request so that DOE may reconsider its determination. If DOE determines under paragraph (f)(1) of this section that the proposed electric transmission facility is not a qualifying project, DOE must provide a justification for the determination and the project proponent may file a request for coordination with the Director as provided in § 900.3. A project

to site a proposed electric transmission facility that is not a qualifying project is not eligible for participation in the IIP Process.

(h) *Initial meeting.* If a project proponent submits a valid initiation request, DOE, in consultation with the identified relevant Federal entities, shall convene the IIP Process initial meeting with the project proponent and all relevant Federal entities notified by DOE under paragraph (f) of this section as soon as practicable and no later than 15 calendar days after the date that DOE provides notice under paragraph (f) that the initiation request meets the requirements of this section. DOE shall also invite relevant non-Federal entities to participate in the initial meeting. During the initial meeting:

(1) DOE and the relevant Federal entities shall discuss with the project proponent the IIP Process, Federal authorization process, related environmental reviews, any arrangements for the project proponent to contribute funds to DOE to cover costs incurred by DOE and the relevant Federal entities in the IIP Process (in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 7278), any requirements for entering into cost recovery agreements, and paying for third-party contractors under DOE's supervision, where applicable;

(2) DOE will identify any Federal applications that must be submitted during the IIP Process, to enable relevant Federal entities to begin work on the review process, and those applications that will be submitted after the IIP Process. All application submittal timelines will be accounted for in the project-specific schedule described in § 900.7;

(3) DOE will establish all analysis areas necessary for the completion of resource reports required under § 900.6;

(4) The project proponent shall describe the proposed electric transmission project and the contents of the initiation request;

(5) DOE and the relevant Federal entities, along with any relevant non-Federal entities who choose to participate, will review the information provided by the project proponent and publicly available information, discuss the study corridors and potential routes identified by the

project proponent, discuss the evaluation criteria and methods used to identify those corridors and routes and, to the extent possible and based on agency expertise and experience, identify any additional criteria for adding or modifying potential routes and study corridors;

(6) DOE and the relevant Federal entities will discuss, based on available information provided by the project proponent, any surveys and studies that may be required for potential routes and completion of the resource reports, including biological (including threatened and endangered species or avian, aquatic, and terrestrial species and aquatic habitats of concern), visual, cultural, economic, social, health, and historic surveys and studies.

(i) *Feedback to project proponent.* Feedback provided to the project proponent under paragraph (h) of this section does not constitute a commitment by any relevant Federal entity to approve or deny a Federal authorization request, nor does the IIP Process limit agency discretion regarding NEPA review.

(j) *Draft initial meeting summary.* Not later than 10 calendar days after the initial meeting, DOE shall:

(1) Prepare a draft initial meeting summary that includes a summary of the meeting discussion, a description of key issues and information gaps identified during the meeting, and any requests for more information from relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities; and

(2) Convey the draft summary to the project proponent, relevant Federal entities, and any relevant non-Federal entities that participated in the meeting.

(k) *Corrections.* The project proponent and entities that received the draft initial meeting summary under paragraph (j) of this section will have 10 calendar days following receipt of the draft initial meeting summary to review the draft and provide corrections to DOE.

(l) *Final summary.* Not later than 10 calendar days following the close of the 10-day review period under paragraph (k) of this section, DOE shall:

(1) Prepare a final initial meeting summary by incorporating received corrections, as appropriate;

(2) Add the final summary to the consolidated administrative docket described by § 900.10; and

(3) Provide an electronic copy of the summary to all relevant Federal entities, relevant non-Federal entities, and the project proponent.

**§ 900.6 Project proponent resource reports.**

(a) *Preparation and submission.* The project proponent shall prepare and submit to DOE the 13 project proponent resource reports described in this section. The project proponent may submit the resource reports at any time before requesting a review meeting under § 900.8 and shall, at the direction of DOE, revise resource reports in response to comments received from relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities during the Integrated Interagency Pre-Application (IIP) Process.

(b) *Content.* Each resource report must include concise descriptions, based on the best available scientific and commercial information, of the known existing environment and major site conditions. The detail of each resource report must be commensurate with the complexity of the proposal and its potential for environmental impacts. Each topic in each resource report must be addressed or its omission justified. If any resource report topic is not addressed at the time the applicable resource report is filed or its omission is not addressed, the report must explain why the topic is missing. If material required for one resource report is provided in another resource report or in another exhibit, it may be incorporated by reference. If outside material is reasonably available for review and comment, a resource report may incorporate that material by reference by including a citation to the material and a brief summary of the material. Consistent with §§ 900.1(h) and 900.4(g), the Director may modify the requirements of this section to reflect differences in onshore and offshore environments and uses.



(c) *Requirements for IIP Process progression.* Failure of the project proponent to provide at least the required initial or revised content will prevent progress through the IIP Process to the IIP Process review or close-out meetings, unless the Director determines that the project proponent has provided an acceptable reason for the item's absence and an acceptable timeline for filing it. Failure to file within the accepted timeline will prevent further progress in the IIP Process.

(d) *General requirements.* As appropriate, each resource report shall:

(1) Address conditions or resources that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed electric transmission project;

(2) Identify environmental effects expected to occur as a result of the proposed project;

(3) Identify the potential effects of construction, operation (including maintenance and malfunctions), and termination of the proposed project, as well as potential cumulative effects resulting from existing or reasonably foreseeable projects;

(4) Identify measures proposed to enhance the environment or to avoid, minimize, or compensate for potential adverse effects of the proposed project; and

(5) Provide a list of publications, reports, and other literature or communications, including agency communications, that were cited or relied upon to prepare each report.

(e) *Federal responsibility.* The resource reports prepared by the project proponent under this section do not supplant the requirements under existing environmental laws related to the information required for Federal authorization or consultation processes. The relevant Federal entities shall independently evaluate the information submitted and shall be responsible for the accuracy, scope, and contents of all Federal authorization decision documents and related environmental reviews.

(f) *Resource Report 1 – General project description.* This report should describe all expected facilities associated with the project, special construction and operation procedures,

construction timetables, future plans for related construction, and permits, authorizations, and consultations that are expected to be required for proposed project. Resource Report 1 must:

(1) Describe and provide location maps of all facilities to be constructed, modified, abandoned, replaced, or removed, including facilities related to construction and operational support activities and areas such as maintenance bases, staging areas, communications towers, power lines, and new access roads (roads to be built or modified), as well as any existing infrastructure proposed to be used for the project (*e.g.*, connections to existing substations and transmission, and existing access roads);

(2) Describe specific generation resources that are known or reasonably foreseen to be developed or interconnected as a result of the proposed electric transmission project, if any;

(3) Identify facilities constructed by other entities that are related to the proposed project (*e.g.*, fiber optic cables) and where those facilities would be located;

(4) Provide the following information for each facility described under paragraphs (f)(1) through (3) of this section:

(i) A brief description of the facility, including, as appropriate, ownership, land requirements, megawatt size, construction status, and an update of the latest status of Federal, State, and local permits and approvals; and

(ii) Current topographic maps showing the location of the facility;

(5) Provide any communications with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) regarding cultural and historic resources in the project area;

(6) To the extent known, identify the permits, authorizations, and consultations that are expected to be required for proposed project, including consultation under section 106 of the NHPA, consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-205, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), consistency determinations under the Coastal Zone

Management Act (CZMA), and permits under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*) (CWA);

(7) Describe any developments in obtaining authorizations and permits or completing required consultations for the proposed project and identify environmental mitigation requirements specified in any permit or proposed in any permit application to the extent not specified elsewhere in this resource report or another resource report;

(8) If the project includes abandonment of certain facilities, rights-of-way, or easements, identify and describe the following:

(i) facilities, rights-of-way, or easements that the project proponent plans to abandon;

(ii) how the facilities, rights-of-way, or easements would be abandoned;

(iii) how the abandoned facilities, rights-of-way, and easements would be restored;

(iv) the owner of the facilities, rights-of-way, or easement after abandonment;

(v) the party responsible for the abandoned facilities, rights-of-way, or easement;

(vi) whether landowners were or are expected to be given the opportunity to request that the abandoned facilities on their property, including foundations and below ground components, be removed; and

(vii) landowners whose preferences regarding abandoned facility removal the project proponent does not intend to honor and reasons why the project proponent does not intend to honor those preferences;

(9) Provide construction timetables and describe, by milepost, proposed construction and restoration methods to be used in areas of rugged topography, residential areas, active croplands, sites where the proposed project would be located parallel to and under roads, and sites where explosives may be used;

(10) Describe estimated workforce requirements for the proposed project, including the number of construction spreads, average workforce requirements for each construction spread,

estimated duration of construction from initial clearing to final restoration, and number of personnel to be hired to operate the proposed project;

(11) Describe reasonably foreseeable plans for future expansion of facilities related to the project, including additional land requirements and the compatibility of those plans with the current proposal;

(12) Provide the names and mailing addresses of all potentially affected landowners identified by the project proponent, identify which potentially affected landowners have been notified by the project proponent, and describe the methodology used to identify potentially affected landowners;

(13) Summarize the proposed mitigation approach anticipated by the project proponent to reduce the potential impacts of the proposed project to resources warranting or requiring mitigation; and

(14) Describe how the proposed project will reduce capacity constraints and congestion on the transmission system, meet unmet demand, or connect generation resources (including the expected type of generation, if known) to load, as appropriate.

(g) *Resource Report 2 – Water use and quality.* This report should describe water resources that may be impacted by the proposed project, describe the potential impacts on these resources, and describe the measures taken to avoid and minimize adverse effects to such water resources, where appropriate. Resource Report 2 must:

(1) Identify surface water resources, including perennial waterbodies, intermittent streams, ephemeral waterbodies, municipal water supply or watershed areas, specially designated surface water protection areas and sensitive waterbodies, floodplains, and wetlands, that would be crossed by a potential route;

(2) For each surface water resource that would be crossed by a potential route, identify the approximate width of the crossing, State water quality classifications, any known potential

pollutants present in the water or sediments, and any downstream potable water intake sources within the applicable analysis area;

(3) Describe typical staging area requirements at surface water resource crossings and identify and describe each potential surface water crossing where staging areas are likely to be more extensive and could require a mitigation approach to address potential impacts to the water resource;

(4) Provide two copies of floodplain and National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps or, if not available, appropriate State wetland maps clearly showing the study corridors or potential routes and mileposts;

(5) For each wetland crossing, identify the milepost of the crossing, the wetland classification specified by the USFWS, and the length of the crossing, and describe, by milepost, wetland crossings as determined by field delineations using the current Federal methodology;

(6) For each floodplain crossing, identify the mileposts, acres of floodplains affected, flood elevation, and basis for determining that elevation;

(7) Describe and provide data supporting the expected impact of the proposed project on surface and groundwater resources;

(8) Describe and provide data supporting proposed avoidance and minimization measures as well as protection or enhancement measures that would reduce the potential for adverse impacts to surface and groundwater resources, and discuss any potential compensation expected to be provided for remaining unavoidable impacts to water resources due to the proposed project;

(9) Identify the location of known public and private groundwater supply wells or springs within the applicable analysis area;

(10) Identify locations of EPA or State-designated principal-source aquifers and wellhead protection areas crossed by a potential route;

(11) Discuss the results of any coordination with relevant Federal entities or non-Federal entities related to CWA permitting and include any written correspondence that resulted from the coordination; and

(12) Indicate whether the project proponent expects that a water quality certification (under section 401 of the CWA) will be required for any potential routes.

(h) *Resource Report 3 – Fish, wildlife, and vegetation.* This report should identify and describe potential impacts to aquatic and terrestrial habitats, wildlife, and plants from the proposed project and discuss potential avoidance, minimization, or compensation measures, and enhancement or protection measures to reduce adverse impacts to these resources. Resource Report 3 must:

(1) Describe aquatic habitats that occur in the applicable analysis area, including commercial and recreational warmwater, coldwater, and saltwater fisheries and associated significant habitats such as spawning or rearing areas, estuaries, and other essential fish habitats;

(2) Describe terrestrial habitats that occur in the project area, including wetlands, typical wildlife habitats, and rare, unique, or otherwise significant habitats;

(3) Identify fish, wildlife, and plants that may be affected by the proposed project, including species that have commercial, recreational, or aesthetic value and that may be affected by the proposed project;

(4) Describe and provide the acreage of vegetation cover types that would be affected by the proposed project, including unique ecosystems or communities such as remnant prairie or old-growth forest, or significant individual plants, such as old-growth specimen trees;

(5) Describe the impact of the proposed project on aquatic and terrestrial habitats, including potential loss and fragmentation;

(6) Describe the potential impact of the proposed project on Federally listed, candidate, or proposed endangered or threatened species, State, Tribal, and local species of concern, and

those species' habitats, including the possibility of a major alteration to ecosystems or biodiversity;

(7) Describe the potential impact of maintenance, clearing, and treatment of the applicable analysis area on fish, wildlife, and plant life;

(8) Identify all Federally listed, candidate, or proposed endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed project and proposed or designated critical habitats that potentially occur in the applicable analysis area;

(9) Identify all State, Tribal, and local species of concern that may be affected by the proposed project;

(10) Identify all known and potential bald and golden eagle nesting and roosting sites, migratory bird flyways, and any sites important to migratory bird breeding, feeding, and sheltering within the applicable analysis areas. These identifications should coincide with the USFWS's most current range and location maps at the time this resource report is submitted;

(11) Discuss the results of any discussions conducted by the proponent to date with relevant Federal entities or relevant non-Federal entities related to fish, wildlife, and vegetation resources, and include any written correspondence that resulted from the discussions;

(12) Include the results of any appropriate surveys that have already been conducted, as well as plans and protocols for future surveys. If potentially suitable habitat is present, species-specific surveys may be required;

(13) If present, identify all Federally designated essential fish habitat (EFH) that occurs in the applicable analysis area and provide:

(i) Information on all EFH, as identified by the pertinent Federal fishery management plans, which may be adversely affected by potential routes;

(ii) The results of discussions with National Marine Fisheries Service; and

(iii) Any resulting EFH assessments that were evaluated, and EFH Conservation Recommendations that were provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service;

(14) Describe potential avoidance, minimization, or compensation measures, and enhancement or protection measures to address adverse effects described in paragraphs (h)(5), (6), and (7) of this section;

(15) Describe anticipated site-specific mitigation approaches for fisheries, wildlife (including migration corridors and seasonal areas of use), grazing, and plant life;

(16) Describe proposed measures to avoid and minimize incidental take of Federally listed and candidate species and species of concern, including eagles and migratory birds; and

(17) Include copies of any correspondence not otherwise provided pursuant to this paragraph (h) containing recommendations from appropriate Federal, State, and local fish and wildlife agencies to avoid or limit impact on wildlife, fish, fisheries, habitats, and plants, and the project proponent's response to those recommendations.

(i) *Resource Report 4 – Cultural resources.* This report should describe the location of known cultural and historic resources, previous surveys and listings of cultural and historic resources, the potential effects that construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project will have on those resources, and initial recommendations for avoidance and minimization measures to address potential effects to those resources. The information provided in Resource Report 4 will contribute to the satisfaction of DOE's and relevant Federal entities' obligations under section 106 of the NHPA.

(1) Resource Report 4 must contain:

(i) A summary of known cultural and historic resources in the applicable analysis area including but not limited to those listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, such as properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian Tribes, and any material remains of past human life or activities that are of an archeological interest;

(ii) A description of potential effects that construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project will have on resources identified in paragraph (i)(1)(i) of this section;



(iii) Documentation of the project proponent's initial communications and engagement, including preliminary outreach and coordination, with Indian Tribes, indigenous peoples, THPOs, SHPOs, communities of interest, and other entities having knowledge of, interest regarding, or an understanding about the resources identified in paragraph (i)(1)(i) of this section and any written comments from SHPOs, THPOs, other Tribal historic preservation offices or governments, or others, as appropriate and available;

(iv) Recommended avoidance and minimization measures to address potential effects of the proposed project;

(v) Any relevant existing surveys or listings of cultural and historic resources in the affected environment; and

(vi) Recommendations for any additional surveys needed; and

(vii) A description, by milepost, of any area that has not been surveyed due to a denial of access by landowners.

(2) The project proponent must update this report with the results of any additional surveys that the project proponent chooses to undertake, as identified in in paragraph (i)(1)(vi) of this section, after the initial submission of this report.

(3) The project proponent must request confidential treatment for all material filed with DOE containing non-public location, character, and ownership information about cultural resources in accordance with § 900.4(h).

(j) *Resource Report 5 – Socioeconomics*. This report should identify and quantify the impacts of constructing and operating the proposed project on the demographics and economics of communities in the applicable analysis area, including minority and underrepresented communities. Resource Report 5 must:

(1) Describe the socioeconomic resources that may be affected in the applicable analysis area;

(2) Describe the positive and adverse socioeconomic impacts of the proposed project;

(3) Evaluate the impact of any substantial migration of people into the applicable analysis area on governmental facilities and services and describe plans to reduce the impact on the local infrastructure;

(4) Describe on-site labor requirements during construction and operation, including projections of the number of construction personnel who currently reside within the applicable analysis area, who would commute daily to the site from outside the analysis area, or who would relocate temporarily within the analysis area;

(5) Determine whether existing affordable housing within the applicable analysis area is sufficient to meet the needs of the additional population; and

(6) Describe the number and types of residences and businesses that would be displaced by the proposed project, procedures to be used to acquire these properties, and types and amounts of relocation assistance payments.

(k) *Resource Report 6 – Tribal interests.* This report must identify the Indian Tribes and indigenous communities that may be affected by the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project facilities, including those Indian Tribes and indigenous communities that may attach religious and cultural significance to cultural resources within the project area. In developing this report, the project proponent should consider both Indian Tribes with contemporary presence in the project area and Indian Tribes with historic connections to the area. To the extent Indian Tribes and indigenous communities are willing to communicate and share resource information, this report must discuss the potential impacts of project construction, operation, and maintenance on Indian Tribes and Tribal interests. This discussion must include impacts to sacred sites and Treaty rights, impacts related to enumerated resources and areas identified in the resource reports listed in this section (for instance, water rights, access to property, wildlife and ecological resources, etc.), and set forth available information on any additional, relevant traditional cultural and religious resources that could be affected by the proposed electric transmission project that are not already addressed. This resource report should acknowledge existing relationships

between adjacent and underlying Federal land management agencies and the Indian Tribes. In developing this report, the project proponent should engage the Federal land manager early to leverage existing relationships. Specific site or property locations, the disclosure of which may create a risk of harm, theft, or destruction of archaeological or Native American cultural resources and information which would violate any Federal law, including section 9 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96-95, as amended) (16 U.S.C. 470hh) and section 304 of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 307103), should be submitted consistent with § 900.4(h). The project proponent must request confidential treatment for all material filed with DOE containing non-public location, character, and ownership information about Tribal resources in accordance with § 900.4(h).

(l) *Resource Report 7 – Communities of Interest.* This report must summarize best available information about the presence of communities of interest. The resource report must identify and describe the potential impacts of constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed electric transmission project on communities of interest; and describe any proposed mitigation approaches for such impacts or community concerns. The report must include a discussion of any disproportionate and/or adverse human health or environmental impacts to communities of interest.

(m) *Resource Report 8 – Geological resources and hazards.* This report should describe geological resources that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed electric transmission project and methods to reduce those effects. The report should also describe geological hazards that could place project facilities at risk and methods proposed to mitigate those risks. Resource Report 8 must:

(1) Describe geological resources in the applicable analysis area that are currently or potentially exploitable, if relevant;

(2) Identify, by milepost, existing and potential geological hazards and areas of nonroutine geotechnical concern in the applicable analysis area, such as high seismicity areas,

active faults, and areas susceptible to soil liquefaction; planned, active, and abandoned mines; karst terrain (including significant caves protected under the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act (Pub. L. 100–691, as amended) (16 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.*)); and areas of potential ground failure, such as subsidence, slumping, and land sliding;

(3) Discuss the risks posed to the proposed project from each hazard or area of nonroutine geotechnical concern identified in paragraph (m)(2) of this section;

(4) Describe how the proposed project would be located or designed to avoid or minimize adverse effects to geological resources and reduce risk to project facilities, including geotechnical investigations and monitoring that would be conducted before, during, and after construction;

(5) Discuss the potential for blasting to affect structures and the measures to be taken to remedy such effects; and

(6) Specify methods to be used to prevent project-induced contamination from mines or from mine tailings along the right-of-way and discuss whether the proposed project would hinder mine reclamation or expansion efforts.

(n) *Resource Report 9 – Soil resources.* This report should describe the soils that could be crossed by the proposed electric transmission project, the potential effect on those soils, and the proposed mitigation approach for those effects. Resource Report 9 must:

(1) List, by milepost, the soil associations that would be crossed by each potential route and describe the erosion potential, fertility, and drainage characteristics of each association;

(2) For the applicable analysis area:

(i) List the soil series within the area and the percentage of the area comprised of each series;

(ii) List the percentage of each series which would be permanently disturbed;

(iii) Describe the characteristics of each soil series; and

(iv) Indicate which soil units are classified as prime or unique farmland by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(3) Identify potential impacts from: soil erosion due to water, wind, or loss of vegetation; soil compaction and damage to soil structure resulting from movement of construction vehicles; wet soils and soils with poor drainage that are especially prone to structural damage; damage to drainage tile systems due to movement of construction vehicles and trenching activities; and interference with the operation of agricultural equipment due to the probability of large stones or blasted rock occurring on or near the surface as a result of construction;

(4) Identify, by milepost, cropland and residential areas where loss of soil fertility due to trenching and backfilling could occur; and

(5) Describe the proposed mitigation approach to reduce the potential for adverse impact to soils or agricultural productivity.

(o) *Resource Report 10 – Land use, recreation, and aesthetics.* This report should describe the existing uses of land that may be impacted by the proposed project, and changes to those land uses and impacts to inhabitants and users that would occur if the proposed electric transmission project is approved. Resource Report 10 must:

(1) Describe the width and acreage requirements of all construction and permanent rights-of-way required for project construction, operation, and maintenance;

(2) List existing rights-of-way that would be co-located with or adjacent to the proposed rights-of-way (including temporary construction lines), and any required utility coordination, permits, and fees that would be associated as a result;

(3) Identify, preferably by diagrams, existing rights-of-way that are expected to be used for any portion of the construction or operational right-of-way, the overlap, and how much additional width is expected to be required;

(4) Identify the total amount of land to be purchased or leased for each project facility, the amount of land that would be disturbed for construction, operation, and maintenance of the

facility, and the use of the remaining land not required for project operation and maintenance, if any;

(5) Identify the size of typical staging areas and expanded work areas, such as those at railroad, road, and waterbody crossings, and the size and location of all construction materials storage yards and access roads;

(6) Identify, by milepost, the existing use of:

(i) Lands crossed by or adjacent to each project facility; and

(ii) Lands on which a project facility is expected to be located;

(7) Describe:

(i) Planned development within the applicable analysis area that is either included in a master plan or on file with the local planning board or the county;

(ii) The time frame (if available) for such development; and

(iii) Proposed coordination to minimize impacts on land use due to such development;

(8) Identify areas within applicable analysis areas that:

(i) Are owned or controlled by Federal, State or local agencies, or private preservation groups;

(ii) Are directly affected by the proposed project or any project facilities or operational sites; and

(iii) Have special designations not otherwise mentioned in other resource reports.

(iv) Examples of such specially designated areas under this provision may include but are not limited to sugar maple stands, orchards and nurseries, landfills, hazardous waste sites, nature preserves, conservation or agricultural lands subject to conservation or agricultural easements or restrictions, game management areas, remnant prairie, old-growth forest, national or State forests, parks, designated natural, recreational or scenic areas, registered natural landmarks, and areas managed by Federal entities under existing land use plans as Visual Resource Management Class I or Class II areas;

(9) Identify Indian Tribes and indigenous communities that may be affected by the proposed project;

(10) Describe Tribal and indigenous community resources lands, interests, and established treaty rights that may be affected by the proposed project;

(11) Identify properties within the project area which may hold cultural or religious significance for Indian Tribes and indigenous communities, regardless of whether the property is on or off of any Federally recognized Indian reservation;

(12) Identify resources within the applicable analysis area that are included in, or are designated for study for inclusion in, if available: the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (16 U.S.C. 1271), the National Wildlife Refuge System (16 U.S.C. 668dd), the National Wilderness Preservation System (16 U.S.C. 1131), the National Trails System (16 U.S.C. 1241-1251), the National Park System (54 U.S.C. 100101-120104), National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), National Natural Landmarks (NNLs), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) acquired Federal lands, LWCF State Assistance Program sites and the Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program lands, or a wilderness area designated under the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136); or the National Marine Sanctuary System, including national marine sanctuaries (16 U.S.C. 1431-1445c-1.) and Marine National Monuments as designated under authority by the Antiquities Act (54 U.S.C. 320301-320303) or by Congress; National Forests and Grasslands (16 U.S.C. 1609 *et seq*); and lands in easement programs managed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service or the U.S. Forest Service (16 U.S.C. 3865, *et seq.*);

(13) Indicate whether the project proponent will need to submit a CZMA Federal consistency certification to State coastal management program(s) for the project, as required by NOAA's Federal consistency regulations at 15 CFR part 930, subpart D;

(14) Describe the impacts the proposed project will have on:

(i) Present uses of land in the applicable analysis area, including commercial uses, mineral resource uses, and recreational uses,

- (ii) Public health and safety;
- (iii) Federal, State, and Tribal scientific survey, research, and observation activities;
- (iv) Sensitive resources and critical habitats;
- (v) The aesthetic value of the land and its features; and
- (vi) Federal, State or Tribal access limitations.

(15) Describe any temporary or permanent restrictions on land use that would result from the proposed project.

(16) Describe the proposed mitigation approach intended to address impacts described in paragraphs (o)(12) and (13) of this section, as well as protection and enhancement of existing land use;

(17) Provide a proposed operations and maintenance plan for vegetation management, including management of noxious and invasive species;

(18) Describe the visual characteristics of the lands and waters affected by the proposed project. Components of this description include a description of how permanent project facilities will impact the visual character of proposed project right-of-way and surrounding vicinity, and measures proposed to lessen these impacts. Project proponents are encouraged to supplement the text description with visual aids;

(19) Identify, by milepost, all residences and buildings near the proposed electric transmission facility construction right-of-way, and identify the distance of the residence or building from the edge of the right-of-way and provide survey drawings or alignment sheets to illustrate the location of the proposed facility in relation to the buildings;

(20) List all dwellings and related structures, commercial structures, industrial structures, places of worship, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, or other structures normally inhabited by humans or intended to be inhabited by humans on a regular basis within the applicable analysis area and provide a general description of each habitable structure and its distance from the centerline of the proposed project. In cities, towns, or rural subdivisions, houses can be identified



in groups, and the report must provide the number of habitable structures in each group and list the distance from the centerline to the closest habitable structure in the group;

(21) List all known commercial AM radio transmitters located within the applicable analysis area and all known FM radio transmitters, microwave relay stations, or other similar electronic installations located within the analysis area; provide a general description of each installation and its distance from the centerline of the proposed project; and locate all installations on a routing map; and

(22) List all known private airstrips within the applicable analysis area and all airports registered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with at least one runway more than 3,200 feet in length that are located within the analysis area. Indicate whether any transmission structures will exceed a 100:1 horizontal slope (one foot in height for each 100 feet in distance) from the closest point of the closest runway. List all airports registered with the FAA having no runway more than 3,200 feet in length that are located within the analysis area. Indicate whether any transmission structures will exceed a 50:1 horizontal slope from the closest point of the closest runway. List all heliports located within the analysis area. Indicate whether any transmission structures will exceed a 25:1 horizontal slope from the closest point of the closest landing and takeoff area of the heliport. Provide a general description of each private airstrip, registered airport, and registered heliport, and state the distance of each from the centerline of the proposed transmission line. Locate all airstrips, airports, and heliports on a routing map.

(23) Information made available under paragraphs (o)(9), (10), and (11) must be submitted consistent with § 900.4(h), including information regarding specific site or property locations, the disclosure of which will create a risk of harm, theft, or destruction of archaeological or Native American cultural resources and information which would violate any Federal law, including section 9 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96-95, as amended) (16 U.S.C. 470hh) and section 304 of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 307103).

(p) *Resource Report 11 – Air quality and noise effects.* This report should identify the effects of the proposed electric transmission project on the existing air quality and noise environment and describe proposed measures to mitigate the effects. Resource Report 11 must:

(1) Describe the existing air quality in the applicable analysis area, indicate if any project facilities are located within a designated nonattainment or maintenance area under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*), and provide the distance from the project facilities to any Class I area in the project area;

(2) Estimate emissions from the proposed project and the corresponding impacts on air quality and the environment;

(i) Estimate the reasonably foreseeable emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions, from construction, operation, and maintenance of the project facilities (such as emissions from tailpipes, equipment, fugitive dust, open burning, and substations) expressed in tons per year; include supporting calculations, emissions factors, fuel consumption rates, and annual hours of operation;

(ii) Estimate the reasonably foreseeable change in greenhouse gas emissions from the existing, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable generation resources identified in Resource Report 1 (see paragraph (f) of this section) that may connect to the proposed project or interconnect as a result of the proposed project, if any, as well as any other modeled air emissions impacts;

(iii) For each designated nonattainment or maintenance area, provide a comparison of the emissions from construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project with the applicable General Conformity thresholds (40 CFR part 93);

(iv) Identify the corresponding impacts on communities and the environment in the applicable analysis area from the estimated emissions;

(v) Describe any proposed mitigation measures to control emissions identified under this section; and

(vi) Estimate the reasonably foreseeable effect of the proposed project on indirect emissions;

(3) Describe existing noise levels at noise-sensitive areas in the applicable analysis area, such as schools, hospitals, residences, and any areas covered by relevant State or local noise ordinances;

(i) Report existing noise levels as the a-weighted decibel (dBA) Leq (day), Leq (night), and Ldn (day- night sound level) and include the basis for the data or estimates;

(ii) Include a plot plan that identifies the locations and duration of noise measurements, the time of day, weather conditions, wind speed and direction, engine load, and other noise sources present during each measurement; and

(iii) Identify any noise regulations that may be applicable to the proposed project;

(4) Estimate the impact of the proposed project on the noise environment;

(i) Provide a quantitative estimate of the impact of transmission line operation on noise levels at the edge of the proposed right-of-way, including corona, insulator, and Aeolian noise; and provide a quantitative estimate of the impact of operation of proposed substations and appurtenant project facilities on noise levels at nearby noise-sensitive areas, including discrete tones;

(A) Include step-by-step supporting calculations or identify the computer program used to model the noise levels, the input and raw output data and all assumptions made when running the model, far-field sound level data for maximum facility operation (either from the manufacturer or from far-field sound level data measured from similar project facilities in service elsewhere) and the source of the data;

(B) Include sound pressure levels for project facilities, dynamic insertion loss for structures, and sound attenuation from the project facilities to the edge of the right-of-way or to nearby noise-sensitive areas (as applicable);

(ii) Describe the impact of proposed construction activities, including any nighttime construction, on the noise environment; estimate the impact of any horizontal directional drilling, pile driving, or blasting on noise levels at nearby noise-sensitive areas and include supporting assumptions and calculations;

(5) Based on noise estimates, indicate whether the proposed project will comply with applicable noise regulations and whether noise attributable to any proposed substation or appurtenant facility will exceed permissible levels at any pre-existing noise-sensitive area;

(6) Based on noise estimates, determine whether any wildlife-specific noise thresholds may have an impact on the proposed project, such as those thresholds specific to avian species that may be relevant in significant wildlife areas, if appropriate; and

(7) Describe measures, and manufacturer's specifications for equipment, proposed to mitigate noise effects and impacts to air quality, including emission control systems, installation of filters, mufflers, or insulation of piping and buildings, and orientation of equipment away from noise-sensitive areas.

(q) *Resource Report 12 – Alternatives*. This report should describe the range of study corridors that were considered as alternatives during the planning, identification, and design of the proposed electric transmission project and compare the environmental impacts of such corridors and the routes contained in those corridors. This analysis may inform the relevant Federal entities' subsequent analysis of their alternatives during the NEPA process. Resource Report 12 must:

(1) Identify all study corridors and routes contained within those corridors. The report must identify the location of the corridors on maps of sufficient scale to depict their location and relationship to the proposed project, and the relationship of the proposed electric transmission facility to existing rights-of-way;

(2) Discuss the "no action" alternative and the potential for accomplishing the proponent's proposed objectives using alternative means;

(3) Discuss design and construction methods considered by the project proponent;

(4) Identify all the alternative study corridors and routes the project proponent considered in the initial screening for the proposed project but did not recommend for further study and the reasons why the proponent chose not to examine such alternatives.

(5) For alternative study corridors and routes recommended for more in-depth consideration, the report must:

(i) Describe the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources for each alternative;

(ii) Describe the environmental characteristics of each alternative, provide comparative tables showing the differences in environmental characteristics for the alternatives, and include an analysis of the potential relative environmental impacts for each alternative;

(iii) Provide an explanation of the costs to construct, operate, and maintain each alternative, the potential for each alternative to meet project deadlines, and technological and procedural constraints in developing the alternatives; and

(iv) Demonstrate whether and how environmental benefits and costs were weighed against economic benefits and costs to the public.

(r) *Resource Report 13 – Reliability, resilience, and safety*. This report should describe the impacts that would result from a failure of the proposed electric transmission facility, the measures, procedures, and features that would reduce the risk of failure, and measures in place to reduce impacts and protect the public if a failure did occur. Resource Report 13 must:

(1) Discuss events that could result in a failure of the proposed facility, including accidents, intentional destructive acts, and natural catastrophes (accounting for the likelihood of relevant natural catastrophes resulting from climate change);

(2) Describe the reasonably foreseeable impacts that would result from a failure of the proposed electric transmission facility, including hazards to the public, environmental impacts, and service interruptions;

(3) Describe the operational measures, procedures, and design features of the proposed project that would reduce the risk of facility failure;

(4) Describe measures proposed to protect the public from failure of the proposed facility (including coordination with local agencies);

(5) Discuss contingency plans for maintaining service or reducing downtime;

(6) Describe measures used to exclude the public from hazardous areas, measures used to minimize problems arising from malfunctions and accidents (with estimates of probability of occurrence), and identify standard procedures for protecting services and public safety during maintenance and breakdowns; and

(7) Describe improvements to reliability likely to result from the proposed project.

### **§ 900.8 IIP Process review meeting.**

(a) An Integrated Interagency Pre-Application (IIP) Process review meeting is required for each proposed electric transmission project utilizing the IIP Process and may only be held after the project proponent submits a review meeting request to DOE. The project proponent may submit the request at any time following submission of the initial resource reports required under § 900.6. The review meeting request must include:

(1) A summary table of changes made to the proposed project since the IIP Process initial meeting, including potential environmental and community benefits from improved siting or design;

(2) Maps of potential routes and study corridors, including the proposed line, substations, and other infrastructure, as applicable, with at least as much detail as required for the initiation request described by § 900.5 and as modified in response to early stakeholder input and outreach and feedback from relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities;

(3) If known, a schedule for completing any upcoming field resource surveys, as appropriate;

(4) A conceptual plan for implementation and monitoring of proposed mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for effects of the proposed project, consistent with 40 CFR 1508.1(s) or any successor regulation. This may include compensatory mitigation measures (offsite and onsite);

(5) An updated public engagement plan described in § 900.5(d)(2), reflecting actions undertaken since the project proponent submitted the initiation request and input received from relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities;

(6) A listing of:

(i) The dates on which the project proponent filed applications or requests for Federal authorizations and the dates on which the project proponent filed revisions to previously filed applications or requests; and

(ii) Estimated dates for filing remaining applications or requests for Federal authorization;

(7) Estimated dates that the project proponent will file requests for authorizations and consultations with relevant non-Federal entities; and

(8) A proposed duration for each Federal land use authorization expected to be required for the proposed project, commensurate with the anticipated use of the proposed electric transmission facility.

(b) Not later than 10 calendar days after the date that DOE receives the review meeting request, DOE shall provide relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities with materials included in the request and the initial resource reports submitted under § 900.6 via electronic means.

(c) Not later than 60 calendar days after the date that DOE receives the review meeting request, DOE shall:

(1) Determine whether the meeting request meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section and whether the initial resource reports are sufficiently detailed; and

(2) Give notice to the project proponent and relevant Federal and non-Federal entities of DOE's determinations under paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(d) If DOE determines under paragraph (c)(1) of this section that the meeting request does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section or that the initial resource reports



are not sufficiently detailed, DOE must provide the reasons for that finding and a description of how the project proponent may address any deficiencies in the meeting request or resource reports so that DOE may reconsider its determination.

(e) Not later than 15 calendar days after the date that DOE provides notice to the project proponent under paragraph (c) of this section that the review meeting request and initial resource reports have been accepted, DOE shall convene the review meeting with the project proponent and the relevant Federal entities. All relevant non-Federal entities participating in the IIP Process shall also be invited.

(f) During the IIP Process review meeting:

(1) The relevant Federal entities shall discuss, and modify if needed, the analysis areas used in the initial resource reports;

(2) Relevant Federal entities shall identify any remaining issues of concern, known information gaps or data needs, and potential issues or conflicts that could impact the time it will take the relevant Federal entities to process applications for Federal authorizations for the proposed electric transmission project;

(3) Relevant non-Federal entities may identify remaining issues of concern, information needs, and potential issues or conflicts for the project;

(4) The participants shall discuss the project proponent's updates to the siting process to date, including stakeholder outreach activities, resultant stakeholder input, and project proponent response to stakeholder input;

(5) Led by DOE, all relevant Federal entities shall discuss statutory and regulatory standards that must be met to make decisions for Federal authorizations required for the proposed project;

(6) Led by DOE, all relevant Federal entities shall describe the process for, and estimated time to complete, required Federal authorizations and, where possible, the anticipated cost (*e.g.*, processing and monitoring fees and land use fees);

(7) Led by DOE, all relevant Federal entities shall describe their expectations for complete applications for Federal authorizations for the proposed project;

(8) Led by DOE, all relevant Federal entities shall identify necessary updates to the initial resource reports that must be made before conclusion of the IIP Process, or, as necessary, following conclusion of the IIP Process; and

(9) DOE shall present the proposed project-specific schedule developed under § 900.7.

(g) Not later than 10 calendar days after the review meeting, DOE shall:

(1) Prepare a draft review meeting summary that includes a summary of the meeting discussion, a description of key issues and information gaps identified during the meeting, and any requests for more information from relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities; and

(2) Convey the draft summary to the project proponent, relevant Federal entities, and any non-Federal entities that participated in the meeting.

(h) The project proponent and entities that received the draft review meeting summary under paragraph (g) of this section will have 10 calendar days following receipt of the draft to review the draft and provide corrections to DOE.

(i) Not later than 10 calendar days following the close of the 10-day review period under paragraph (h) of this section, DOE shall:

(1) Prepare a final review meeting summary incorporating received corrections, as appropriate;

(2) Add the final summary to the consolidated administrative docket described by § 900.10; and

(3) Provide an electronic copy of the summary to the relevant Federal entities, relevant non-Federal entities, and the project proponent.

(j) Not later than 10 calendar days following the close of the 10-day review period under paragraph (h) of this section, DOE shall:

(1) determine whether the project proponent has developed the scope of its proposed project and alternatives sufficiently for DOE to determine that there exists an undertaking for purposes of section 106 of the NHPA; and

(2) if the scope is sufficiently developed, initiate consultation with SHPOs, THPOs, and others consistent with 36 CFR 800.2(c)(4), which may include authorizing a project proponent, as a CITAP applicant, to initiate section 106 consultation and providing appropriate notifications.

(k) After the review meeting and before the IIP Process close-out meeting described by § 900.9 the project proponent shall revise resource reports submitted under § 900.6 based on feedback from relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities received during the review meeting and based on any updated surveys conducted since the initial meeting.

**§ 900.9 IIP Process close-out meeting.**

(a) An Integrated Interagency Pre-Application (IIP) Process close-out meeting concludes the IIP Process for a proposed electric transmission project and may only be held after the project proponent submits a close-out meeting request to DOE. The project proponent may submit the request at any time following the submission of the updated resource reports as required under § 900.8. The close-out meeting request shall include:

(1) A summary table of changes made to the proposed project during the IIP Process, including potential environmental and community benefits from improved siting or design;

(2) A description of all changes made to the proposed project since the review meeting, including a summary of changes made to the updated resource reports in response to the concerns raised during the review meeting;

(3) A final public engagement plan, as described in § 900.5(d)(2);

(4) Requests for Federal authorizations for the proposed project; and

(5) An updated estimated timeline of filing requests for all other authorizations and consultations with non-Federal entities.

(b) Not later than 10 calendar days after the date that DOE receives the close-out meeting request, DOE shall provide relevant Federal entities and relevant non-Federal entities with materials included in the request and any updated resource reports submitted under § 900.6 via electronic means.

(c) Not later than 60 calendar days after the date that DOE receives the close-out meeting request, DOE shall:

(1) Determine whether the meeting request meets the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section and whether the updated resource reports are sufficiently detailed; and

(2) Give notice to the project proponent and relevant Federal and non-Federal entities of DOE's determinations under paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(d) If DOE determines that the meeting request does not meet the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section or that the updated resource reports are not sufficiently detailed, DOE must provide the reasons for that finding and a description of how the project proponent may address any deficiencies in the meeting request or resource reports so that DOE may reconsider its determination.

(e) Not later than 15 calendar days after the date that DOE provides notice to the project proponent under paragraph (c) of this section that the close-out meeting request and updated resource reports have been accepted, DOE shall convene the close-out meeting with the project proponent and all relevant Federal entities. All relevant non-Federal entities participating in the IIP Process shall also be invited.

(f) The IIP Process close-out meeting concludes the IIP Process. During the close-out meeting:

(1) The participants shall discuss the project proponent's updates to the siting process to date, including stakeholder outreach activities, resultant stakeholder input, and project proponent response to stakeholder input; and

(2) DOE shall present the final project-specific schedule.

(g) Not later than 10 calendar days after the close-out meeting, DOE shall:

(1) Prepare a draft close-out meeting summary; and

(2) Convey the draft summary to the project proponent, relevant Federal entities, and any non-Federal entities that participated in the meeting.

(h) The project proponent and entities that received the draft close-out meeting summary under paragraph (g) of this section will have 10 calendar days following receipt of the draft to review the draft and provide corrections to DOE.

(i) Not later than 10 calendar days following the close of the 10-day review period under paragraph (h) of this section, DOE shall:

(1) Prepare a final close-out meeting summary by incorporating received corrections, as appropriate;

(2) Add the final summary to the consolidated administrative docket described by § 900.10;

(3) Provide an electronic copy of the summary to all relevant Federal entities, relevant non-Federal entities, and the project proponent; and

(4) In the event that the proposed project is not identified as a covered project pursuant to § 900.5(e), notify the FPISC Executive Director that the proposed project ought to be included on the FPISC Dashboard as a transparency project.

(j) DOE and any NEPA joint lead agency shall issue a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental review document for the proposed project within 90 days of the later of the IIP Process close-out meeting or the receipt of a complete application for a Federal authorization for which NEPA review will be required, as consistent with the final project-specific schedule.

(k) DOE shall issue, for each Federal land use authorization for a proposed electric transmission facility, a preliminary duration determination commensurate with the anticipated use of the proposed facility.