Dividing BEAD Subgrant Awards into Multiple NEPA Project Areas

NTIA Instructions for completing NEPA_Project_id.csv file

Overview

To support NTIA's goal of issuing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approvals within two weeks for an estimated ninety percent of BEAD projects and eliminate approximately 3-6 months of environmental processing per project, Eligible Entities (EEs) are required to use the Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) within the NTIA Grants Portal (NGP) to support subgrant NEPA reviews. EEs are also encouraged (but not required) to use ESPATT's permitting tracking capacity to evaluate and track subrecipient NEPA milestone schedules and escalate Federal right-of-way permitting issues to NTIA (and their Federal Program Office) for interagency permitting resolution.

ESAPTT will help EEs serve as Joint Lead Agencies for NEPA by identifying applicable categorical exclusions, enabling paperless transmission of environmental documents, generating draft and final NEPA documents for BEAD projects, and validating the limited actions subject to **BEAD Guidance on NEPA and NHPA for LEO Satellite Service**.

In some cases, an EE might issue a single BEAD award to a subgrantee with multiple successful proposals to deploy services in different geographic areas within the state. This geographic diversity can unnecessarily expand the scope of the NEPA review, complicating and potentially delaying approvals for projects that have independent functionality.

NTIA will generate ESAPTT project records from BEAD subgrant award data based on the BEAD Subgrant Project ID, and *every BEAD subgrant award must have at least one ESAPTT project record, even if the project may qualify for NEPA exclusion*. **EEs must identify any awards containing multiple NEPA project areas. This data will allow ESAPTT to support multiple NEPA Project IDs associated with the same BEAD Subgrant Project ID.**

Timing

The NEPA_Project_id.csv file is intended to reduce or eliminate the time spent manually creating records in ESAPTT and easily identify Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) that are associated with NEPA project areas. The csv file is designed so EEs can use data in other Final Proposal data files and notate which NEPA Project ID they are associated with (if applicable).

EEs can submit their NEPA project file to NTIA either with Final Proposal submission or any time prior to the start of their ESAPTT processing. **In order to reduce the risk of additional work for the EE, the EE should be confident their NEPA Project Areas are defined**, will not change, and know which BSLs are associated with them before submitting to NTIA.

Applicability

If each of the BEAD Subgrant Project IDs that your State or Territory has identified in its Final Proposal fp_locations.csv file consist of one NEPA Project Area: Identify that in your Final Proposal under planned permitting activities and inform your FPO. You do not need to complete the NEPA_Project_id.csv file, and you don't need to proceed with the instructions below.

If each of the BEAD Subgrant Project IDs that your State or Territory has identified in its Final Proposal fp_locations.csv file are divided into multiple NEPA Project Areas: Follow instructions 1-7 below.

If the BEAD Subgrant Project IDs that your State or Territory has identified in its Final Proposal fp_locations.csv file include a mix of awards consisting of single and multiple NEPA Project Areas: Follow instructions 1-4 for ALL subgrant awards identified in the fp_locations.csv file, but only generate a NEPA Project ID (steps 5 and 6) for projects consisting of multiple NEPA Project Areas. After these steps have been followed for all subgrant awards, proceed to instruction 7.

Instructions

1) Utilize the NEPA_Project_id.csv file, available on the NEPA for BEAD page of the Broadband USA website here: BroadbandUSA
2) Fill out the *location_id, project_id,* and *technology* columns with the information your State or Territory identified in the "fp_locations.csv" file, as part of the BEAD Final Proposal. For reference, the FCC Broadband Data Collection technology codes are provided below.

0	Other technology
10	Copper Wire
40	Coaxial Cable / HFC
50	Optical Carrier / Fiber to the Premises
61	Non-Geostationary Satellite
70	Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
71	Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
72	Licensed by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed Wireless

3) Fill out the *project_name*, *project_description* (max 1,000 characters), and *uei* columns with the information your State or Territory identified in the "fp_deployment_projects.csv" file, as part of the BEAD Final Proposal. Please use the project_id as the unique identifier to ensure that the project details align with the project_id pulled from the "fp_locations.csv."
4) Columns cai, latitude, and longitude are specific to Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs). If the location ID identifies a CAI, fill out a number 1 in the CAI column, otherwise put a 0. If the CAI does not have a location ID, fill out the latitude and longitude in the columns provided. An example table is provided below for reference, please note that not all columns are present in the example table.

Example Table – For reference only

location_id	project_id	technology	cai	latitude	longitude	NEPA_project_id
1234567891	CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-5	50	0			CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-5-N1
5234567892	CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-5	50	0			CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-5-N1
2234567893	CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-5	50	0			CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-5-N1
8345678912	CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-8	50	0			CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-8-N3
9458253123	CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-8	50	0			CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-8-N2
	CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-8	70	1	55.28912	15.97853	CM61-BEAD-LA-5689-8-N4

5) Generate a NEPA Project ID (as explained in step 6), and input that into column *NEPA_project_id*. All *location_id*'s which fall into the same NEPA project area will have the same *NEPA_project_id*.
6) To generate a NEPA Project ID use the same naming convention used for the *project_id* column in the "fp_locations.csv" file and include an additional dash + N and a number to identify the NEPA Project ID. See example below.

Example of NEPA Project IDs based on BEAD Project IDs

EE	*Project ID*	***NEPA Project ID***
Louisiana	*CM61-BEAD-LA-5678-9*	***CM61-BEAD-LA-5678-9-N1***
Hawaii	*CM61-BEAD-HI-1234X-7*	***CM61-BEAD-HI-1234X-7-N1***

7) Submit the NEPA_Project_id.csv file to permittingOICG@ntia.gov and copy your FPO and RD for awareness.