

# Tennessee BEAD Environmental Readiness – One-Pager Reference

## Purpose

This one-pager summarizes the key environmental readiness items awardees should confirm before initiating construction and highlights common issues that can delay environmental clearance.

<h3>Environmental Readiness Checklist (High-Level)</h3> <p>Awardees should confirm the following <b>before construction begins</b>:</p> <p><b>NEPA Pathway Confirmed</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate NEPA determination identified and documented.</p> <p><b>Environmental Screening Completed</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ESA, wetlands, floodplains, and cultural/historic considerations reviewed, as applicable.</p> <p><b>Required Permits Identified</b> Your paragraph text</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federal, state, local, and private approvals assessed along the full project route.</p> <p><b>Agency &amp; Landowner Coordination Initiated</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Early outreach completed where permits, approvals, or consultations are required.</p> <p><b>Environmental Documentation Prepared</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Screening results, correspondence, and determinations retained and ready for submission.</p> <p><b>Key Reminder:</b> Environmental readiness confirms a project is cleared to build; construction should not begin until these items are addressed.</p>	<h3>Common Environmental Readiness Gaps That Cause Delays</h3> <p>The following issues frequently slow environmental review or postpone construction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Starting construction before environmental clearance</b></li><li>2. Ground disturbance or installation begins before NEPA or permit approvals are complete.</li><li>3. <b>Late identification of required permits</b></li><li>4. Federal, state, local, or private approvals identified too late in the process.</li><li>5. <b>Incomplete environmental submissions</b></li><li>6. Missing documentation, outdated screenings, or inconsistent project information.</li><li>7. <b>Delayed agency or landowner coordination</b></li><li>8. Outreach initiated only after designs are finalized or construction is scheduled.</li><li>9. <b>Underestimating review timelines</b></li><li>10. Assuming approvals will be quick without confirming agency timelines.</li></ol> <p><b>Key Reminder:</b> Most environmental delays are preventable with early screening, coordination, and complete documentation.</p>
<h3>Environmental Screening &amp; Permitting Tools</h3> <p>Common tools awardees may use to support environmental compliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">NEPA for BEAD Frequently Asked Questions</a> Guidance on key environmental questions and BEAD-specific requirements.</li><li>● <a href="#">NTIA Permitting Resources</a> Federal guidance and mapping tools related to infrastructure permitting.</li><li>● <a href="#">USFWS IPaC Tool</a> Used to identify potential impacts to sensitive species and habitats.</li><li>● <a href="#">FEMA Flood Map Service Center</a> Identifies floodplain considerations.</li><li>● <a href="#">USFWS Wetlands Mapper</a> Screens for potential wetlands and Clean Water Act triggers.</li><li>● <a href="#">Sample Project Descriptions and Maps</a> Official NTIA letter- for BEAD Environmental &amp; Historic Preservation (EHP) Review.</li><li>● <a href="#">Section 106 Review</a> Steps to complete Section 106 Review for SHPO.</li></ul>	<h3>Key TNECD Resources &amp; Links</h3> <p>Helpful references for Tennessee BEAD awardees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <a href="#">TNECD BEAD Program Resources</a> Central program guidance and foundational documents.</li><li>● <a href="#">Tennessee BEAD Application Guidebook (Version 2.1)</a> State-specific application and program requirements.</li><li>● <a href="#">NTIA BEAD Federal Program Resources</a> Federal policy notices, NEPA guidance, and technical assistance tools.</li><li>● <a href="#">NEPA &amp; Environmental Resources</a> National tools and background supporting environmental review expectations.</li><li>● <a href="#">Tennessee BEAD Subgrantee Selection Map</a> Interactive reference for Project Area Units and eligibility locations.</li></ul>