



December 19, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to initiate Tribal Consultation regarding Indian Health Service (IHS) proposals to streamline floodplain impact review processes for certain routine or recurring actions, known as “repetitive actions,” associated with construction projects sited within a floodplain. I want your recommendations on types of construction projects within your local communities that may qualify for streamlined floodplain management procedures. This letter and enclosure detail the steps associated with assessing which construction projects may qualify for these streamlined floodplain management procedures and the kinds of construction projects, or repetitive actions, that may be subject to the Class Review.

Executive Order (E.O.) 11988 directs agencies to evaluate potential effects of any action it takes in a floodplain, and consider alternatives to avoid adverse effects. *See* 42 FR 26951 (May 24, 1977), as amended by E.O. 13690, 80 FR 6425 (Jan. 30, 2015). The streamlined procedure specific to floodplain management is known as the Class Review process. The Class Review process is discussed in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) *Guidelines for Implementing Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input* (October 8, 2015), including FEMA’s 8-step decision-making process to comply with E.O. 11988.

In order to determine that an action qualifies as a Class Review, Federal agencies must determine the types of agency-specific construction projects that can be classified as repetitive actions that meet the following criteria:

- past actions have been reviewed on an individual basis;
- do not have an adverse impact on a floodplain;
- would not put people or property at risk; and
- have not received any or very few public comments to the contrary.

See FEMA’s Guidelines for Implementing E.O. 11988 and E.O. 13690 at 44.

The IHS proposed Class Review project list is available in the Enclosure.

VIRTUAL TRIBAL CONSULTATION SESSION

Please make plans to join us for a virtual Tribal Consultation on January 22, 2025, to discuss the floodplain class review process. Session details follow.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION	
DATE:	January 22, 2025
TIME:	2:00 p.m., Eastern Time
ZOOM:	Please register in advance to participate in this session at: https://ihs.gov.zoomgov.com/j/1616780921?pwd=B0aJTyaAeYbZ83y8yZDew7lTqKRQpE.1

Please email your written comments and recommendations to consultation@ihs.gov, with the **SUBJECT LINE: Floodplain Class Review**. The comment submission deadline for this Tribal Consultation is **February 17, 2025**.

I look forward to your feedback and recommendations on this important implementation development. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Andrea Taylor, Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Environmental Health and Engineering, IHS, by email at andrea.taylor@ihs.gov.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso -S Digitally signed by Roselyn Tso -S
Date: 2024.12.19 10:38:02 -05'00'

Roselyn Tso
Director

Enclosure: Proposed IHS Floodplain Class Review Project List