

# OFF-SYSTEM HIGHWAY BRIDGE PROGRAM



2005 - 2007  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROCESS  
PROCEDURES

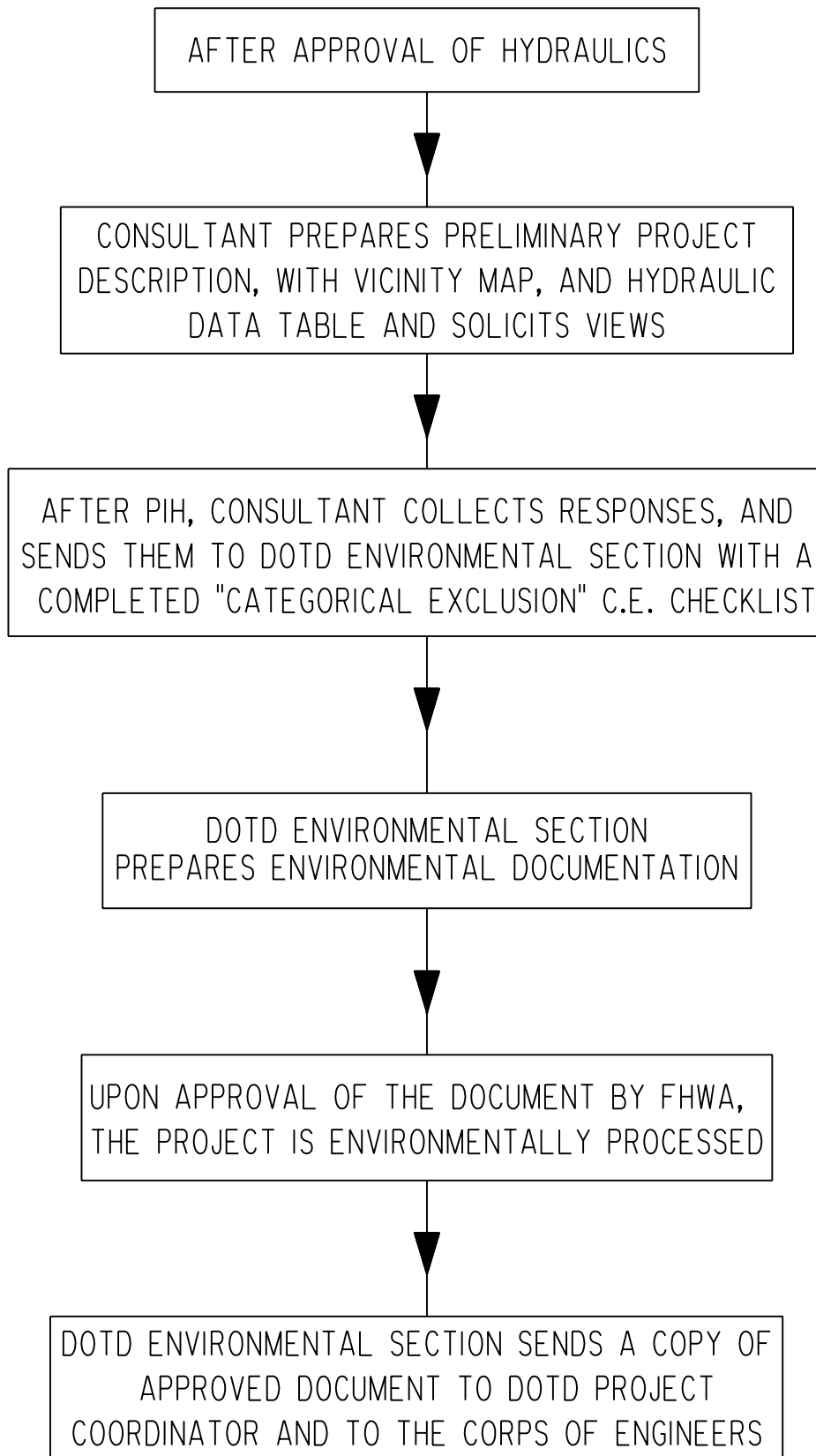


# OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE PROJECTS ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS INSTRUCTIONAL PACKET

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# ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS FLOWCHART OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE PROJECTS



## SOLICITATION OF VIEWS PROCEDURE

Example of SOV letter:

SOV example letter enclosed

Example of Preliminary Project Description:

Attached are several examples of preliminary project descriptions. Look through these and choose the one most appropriate for your project. Feel free to tailor project data as to description, relocation or moveable bridge.

Example of Project Location Map

For base map – you can use a copy of the location map (in packet from Coordinator). Each map should have the bridge location circled and each project site labeled. The township, section and range must also be shown. An example is enclosed.

## SOLICITATION OF VIEWS (SOV)

### 1. Description:

The purpose of the SOV is to inform interested persons and agencies of the proposed project and to allow them 30 days in which to comment. The SOV is made up of three parts: examples of which have been provided for your information.

The first part is the SOV letter, attached. The blank in the last paragraph on page 1 should be filled in with the date that the responses to the SOVs are due back to your office (this date should be at least 30 days from the day the SOV is mailed).

The second part of the SOV is the mailing lists, which are composed of State and Parish lists. These lists were included in your project packet from the Project Coordinator. The SOV must be sent to every address on these lists. Do not exclude any person or agency. It is your responsibility to update these lists prior to mailing out the SOVs.

The third part of the SOV is the project description, vicinity map and hydraulic data table. Examples are attached as guides for your preparation of same. The project description, map and hydraulic data table must be sent with the SOV. One copy of this information, per project, is also to be sent to the Project Coordinator.

Interested parties wishing to comment should do so by the deadline. Not everyone on the mailing list will reply. Do not worry about this. Responses are required from the following four (4) agencies: U.S. Corps of Engineers, U.S. Wildlife and Fisheries, State Historic and Preservation Officer and the Floodplain Administrator. If no response is obtained, documentation that three (3) attempts were made will be required.

### 2. Site Survey:

If additional right-of-way or a construction diversion is required for the project, a biological survey may need to be performed. If a cultural resource survey is required, this must be done. This section will not perform these surveys; the Parish must engage the services of a competent professional who must prepare a written report of the survey, if this is determined necessary.

Other permits may include, but may not be limited to the following:  
U.S. Coast Guard Bridge Permit  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit  
LA Dept. of Natural Resources Coastal Use Permit  
LA Dept. of Environmental Quality Water Quality Certification  
Louisiana Natural and Scenic Stream Class B Permit

The DOTD Federal Permit Coordinator will submit applications for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits for Federal-Aid, Off-System Projects. Copies of sketches may be required to be submitted for review and will be returned with comments for correction. Approved copies of all permits will be received by the Federal Permit Coordinator prior to a project being let to contract. For additional information contact:

LA DOTD  
Attn: Ms. Traci T. Johnson  
Post Office Box 94245, Cubicle 502E  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245  
Phone: (225) 379-1317

3. Environmental Checklist:

After the plan-in-hand inspection, you will be instructed to complete the environmental checklist.

Answer "Yes" or "No" in each blank, or provide a brief explanation, as appropriate. Attached to the checklist, we have provided a brief description of some of the terms and the legislation cited in the checklist. If you have any questions about the terms or are unsure whether certain legislation is involved, call this office.

4. Review By DOTD:

The next step is to send this Section (Section 28) the following material for review:

- a. SOV package and copy of mailing lists used.
- b. Copies of all responses to SOV
- c. Copy of the completed environmental checklist
- d. Copies of other permit applications relative to the proposed projects
- e. Email containing the project description and map
- f. Copies of any biological or cultural resource reports prepared, if applicable.

This Section will review this material and determine whether a CE is warranted.

5. Environmental Clearance:

If this Section determines that a CE is warranted, we will request concurrence from the FHWA. If FHWA concurs, the project will be environmentally processed.

If it is determined that a CE is not warranted, another form of environmental clearance is then necessary. We will notify you of the particular requirements, if that situation arises.



(Sample letter to be placed on Consultant's letterhead)

STATE PROJECT NO.  
F.A.P. NO.  
NAME  
PARISH

Re: Solicitation of Views

Early in the planning stages of a transportation facility, views from federal, state and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups can assist DOTD with the early identification of possible adverse economic, social or environmental effects or concerns. Your assistance in this regard will be appreciated.

Due to the earliness of this request for your views, very limited data concerning the proposed project exists. We have, however, attached a map showing the general location of the project, along with a preliminary project description.

It is requested that you review the attached information and furnish us with your views and comments by c. Please reference the State Project number(s) in your reply. Replies should be addressed to Consultant Firm, Address, City, State, Zip+4.

Sincerely,

Name  
Title

c This date signifies the end of public comment period. Calculate 30 days from date of SOV and add one week.

# PRELIMINARY PROJECT DATA 1

STATE PROJECT NO. _____	Cost: _____
F.A.P. NO. _____	ADT: _____
_____	Class: _____
_____	
_____	

The proposed project calls for the replacement of a \_\_\_\_\_ wide x \_\_\_\_\_ long timber bridge, crossing \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Parish. The bridge was constructed in 19\_\_.

Plans call for replacement with pipe conduits or box culverts. The contractor may use \_\_\_\_\_ reinforced concrete pipes or \_\_\_\_\_ corrugated metal pipes or \_\_\_\_\_ reinforced concrete box culverts. Bedding material will be placed in the stream. Additional right-of-way will be required.

The parish road will be closed during construction and a detour bridge will not be provided. There will be no displacements as a result of this project. There are no National Register of Historic Places Properties in the project areas. This stream is not included on the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Streams System.

It is anticipated that the project will be environmentally processed as a categorical exclusion. If a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit is required, it is anticipated that the project would fall under the Nationwide Permit pursuant to Part 330.5a(23).

## PRELIMINARY PROJECT DATA 2

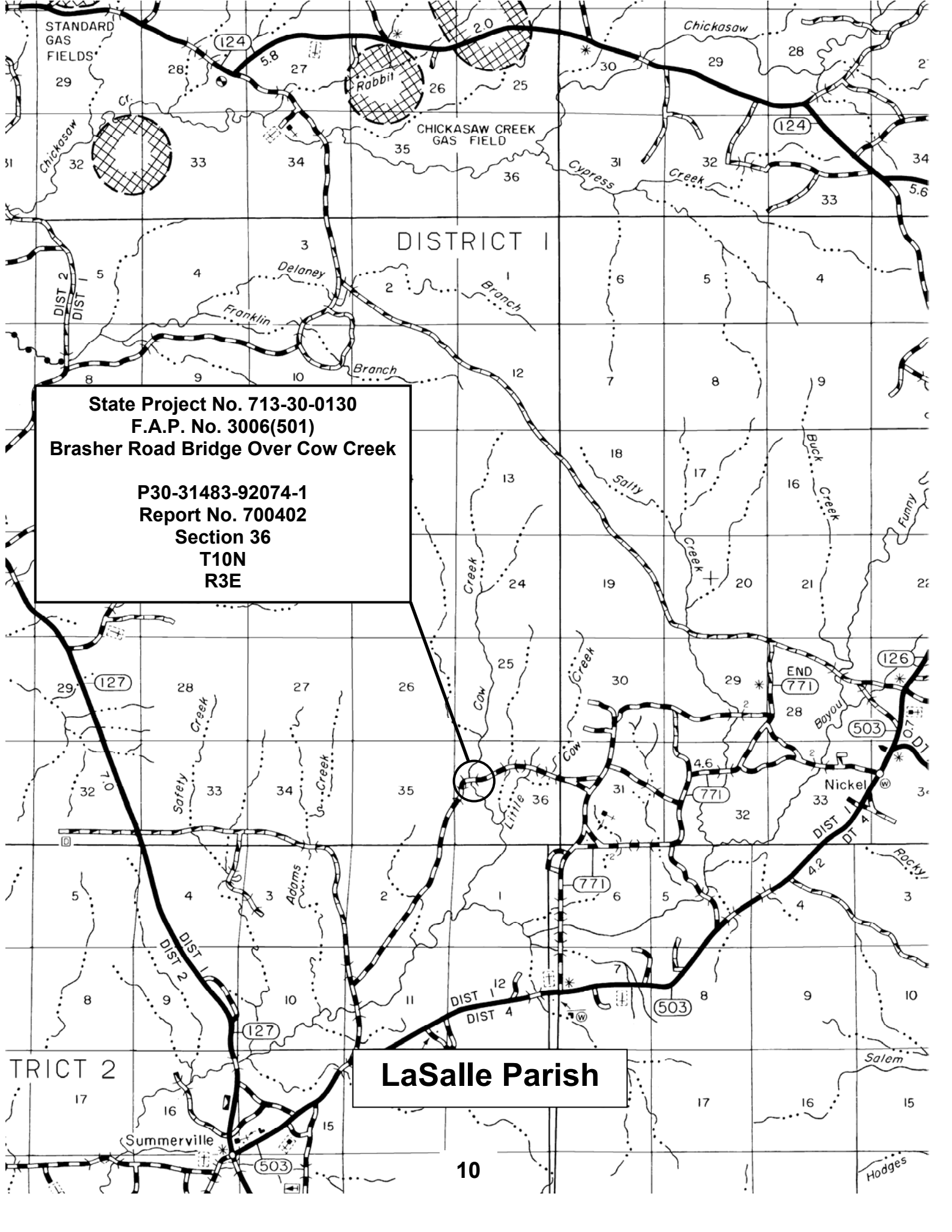
STATE PROJECT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
F.A.P. NO. \_\_\_\_\_ ADT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The proposed project calls for the replacement of a \_\_\_\_\_ wide x \_\_\_\_\_ long timber bridge, crossing \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ Parish. The bridge was constructed in 19\_\_.

Plans call for replacement with a \_\_\_\_\_ long concrete slab span bridge with a \_\_\_-foot clear roadway and 10-foot concrete approach slabs. Excavation in the stream will be necessary. Additional right-of-way will be required.

The parish road will be closed during construction and a detour bridge will not be provided. There will be no displacements as a result of this project. There are no National Register of Historic Places Properties in the project areas. This stream is not included on the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Streams System.

It is anticipated that the project will be environmentally processed as a categorical exclusion. If a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit is required, it is anticipated that the project would fall under the Nationwide Permit pursuant to Part 330.5a(23).



**State Project No. 713-30-0130**  
**F.A.P. No. 3006(501)**  
**Brasher Road Bridge Over Cow Creek**

**P30-31483-92074-1**  
**Report No. 700402**  
**Section 36**  
**T10N**  
**R3E**

**LaSalle Parish**

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Displacements occur when any person is required to move from real property or move his personal property from real property because of the acquisition of right-of-way for the project.

Air Quality Analysis may be required when a project results in:

- a) Increased traffic volume,
- b) Traffic routed through new areas, or
- c) Increased traffic congestion

Noise Study Report may be required when the project results in:

- a) Increased traffic volume,
- b) Traffic routed through new areas, or
- c) New alignment bringing traffic closer to noise receptors.

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS

- 1) Preservation of Parkland (Section 4(f))  
Applies when project will impact publicly owned recreation areas or sites eligible for the National Register.
- 2) Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act  
Applies when project will impact a structure or site eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; or if project will substantially modify a bridge 50 years old or older, that has been determined eligible or the National Register.
- 3) Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (Section 6(f))  
Applies if project will impact prime or unique farmland.
- 4) Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands  
Applies if project will impact wetlands. Note: a wetlands determination must be made.
- 5) Executive Order 11988, Evaluation of Flood Hazards  
Applies if project occurs in the 100-year floodplain as described by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

- 6) Coastal Zone Management Act  
Applies if project occurs in the Coastal Zone (roughly everything south of 5 feet MSL).
- 7) Endangered Species Act of 1973  
Applies if project will impact any species on the federal list of endangered or threatened species.
- 8) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act  
Applies if project impacts a river listed on the national list of Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- 9) Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers Act (Class B Permit)  
Applies if a project impacts a stream listed on the state list of natural and scenic rivers.
- 10) Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899  
(Coast Guard Bridge Permit)  
Applies if the project impacts a navigable waterway of the U.S.
- 11) Federal Water Pollution Control Act (1972) as amended by the Clean Water Act (1977) (Section 404 Permit)  
Applies if the project results in a discharge to water bodies.
- 12) Farmland Protection Policy Act  
Applies if project will impact prime or unique farmland.