

ENVIRONMENTAL STREAMLINING:

Collaborative Environmental Agreement Process

Introduction:

The Collaborative Environmental Agreement Process (CEAP) is an initiative to streamline the environmental process among 10 state and federal agencies. The agencies include: the Oregon Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Environmental Quality, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the US Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Division of State Lands.

This collaborative process is an effort to reduce redundancy and to identify solutions to resource constraints. Other goals include making procedural changes within agencies that focus less on process and more on environmental benefits during the review of transportation projects.

In a May 1, 1992, agreement, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Army Civil Works, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency adopted an agency policy mandating (1) improved interagency coordination, and (2) integration of National Environmental Protection Act and the Clean Water Act Section 404 procedures. This agreement was implemented by all 10 agencies in the signing of the 1996 Accord. The CEAP will expand the original 1996 agreement to include broader definition than integration of NEPA and the Clean Water Act Section 404 procedures.



Executive Deputy Director Tom Lulay has issued a memo to Transportation Operations managers and staff members outlining

work recently completed by an ODOT Environmental Guidance Group. The group developed documents that clarify ODOT's environmental stewardship responsibilities and that provide guidance for decision-makers. Lulay said he has asked each Business Line Team to include a work item in their annual work plans to implement environmental considerations into "the way we do business at ODOT." Recently, Director Grace Crunican lead the second in a series of meetings planned with nine state and federal agency directors. The group is focusing on streamlining various environmental regulations affecting transportation projects. To review the ODOT Agreement Process Report, please click [here](#).

A technical committee of representatives (See [CEAP Contact List](#).) from each of the 10 agencies has been assembled and has scheduled four meetings, June 22nd, July 27th, August 17th and September 28th. All meetings will be held in Portland at ODOT's Region 1 Headquarters Building, 123 NW Flanders Street in Conference Room A & B. The meetings begin at 9AM and are scheduled to adjourn at 5PM. For further information or to receive meeting notices, contact [Ellen R. Dennis](#).

To review the meeting summaries from these meetings click [here](#).

Also attached are two documents that provide guidance for those making environment-related decisions. They outline an approach to balance environmental stewardship with other equally important business needs, and high-level clarification of the roles & responsibilities and authorities of key decision-makers. To review the Environmental Guidance document, click [here](#). To examine the Environmental Guidance Decision Making Wheel, click [here](#).

In addition, to the technical committee the directors from each of the 10 agencies meet in Salem every six to eight weeks. For more information on these meetings contact [Rachel Knowles](#).

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