

Part 602 – Reviews and Approvals

Subpart D – Fund Authorization

602.30 Approval Authorities for Watershed Project Plans

An overview of the step-by-step review and approval process, procedure, and sequence that should be followed is available in Title 390, National Watershed Program Handbook (NWPH), Part 606, Subpart C, Sections 606.30, “Review and Approval Process for Watershed Project Plans.”

602.31 Plans That May Be Approved Administratively

After the Chief has authorized funding for the project, the NHQ program manager will enter the project in the Program Operations Information Tracking System (POINTS) database and assign the 2000-series project number.

602.32 Plans That Require Congressional Approval

State NRCS Responsibilities

The STC should send to the Deputy Chief for Science and Technology those materials specified in Title 390, National Watershed Program Manual (NWPM), Part 502, Subpart D, Section 502.32A. This must include supporting documentation for use by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB has requested that a fact sheet (see 390-NWPH, Part 606, Subpart B, Section 606.17) be submitted along with any Plan-EIS that it reviews. The information is of value to them in their review process. The following information provides guidance in preparing the fact sheet:

- (i) Economic and Financial Data.—These figures should be listed in dollars rounded off to an appropriate level of significance.
- (ii) Benefit-Cost Ratios.—These should be entered at each discount rate listed.
 - Authorized Rate.—This discount rate is established when the Plan-EIS is approved. On a new Plan-EIS, the authorized rate will be the same as the current rate.
 - Current Rate.—The discount rate approved for Federal water resource projects (in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act of 1974) at the time the fact sheet is prepared.
- (iii) Certification.—Always check the “yes” block. Fact sheets will be prepared after a new Plan-EIS is signed by the sponsoring local organization and NRCS and any exceptions needed have been obtained.

602.33 Notification of Public Law 83-566 Funding Authorization

Upon receipt of the State Conservationist’s (STC’s) request for funding, the Chief will authorize the project for funding as budget limitations allow. No charges are to be made to the project until the funding authorization letter has been received and funds are allocated. If the project is not already in the POINTS database, the National Headquarters (NHQ) program manager will enter it.

602.34 Approval of Public Law 78-534 Projects

Upon receipt of the State Conservationist's request for funding, the Chief will authorize the project for funding as budget limitations allow. No charges may be made to the project until the funding authorization letter has been received and funds are allocated. If the project is not already in the POINTS database, the NHQ program manager will enter it.