

SESSION 3A

PREPARING AN IEE (AND EXERCISE)

SESSION SUMMARY.

For activities that are not eligible for Categorical Exclusion (or activities for which a Categorical Exclusion is deemed insufficient given the proposed scope, nature of technical interventions, etc.) the pre-implementation review process will most likely be documented in an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE). The IEE is consistent with a preliminary assessment as defined by EIA methodology and results in a Threshold Decision(s). A Positive Threshold Decision means that “the proposed action will have a significant effect on the environment.” A Negative Determination means “the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the environment.” However, the latter may only hold true if certain precautions or safeguards are put in place. As a result, Negative Determinations are frequently made “with conditions”—these are the mitigation and monitoring requirements that are implemented to ensure environmental soundness, and upon which compliance depends.

This session will address how to prepare an IEE, including its contents and organization. The short technical presentation will be followed by a brief exercise that will familiarize participants with the process of establishing Threshold Decisions.