



# Floodplain Management

The 8-Step Process is required by both [EO 11988](#) (Floodplain Management) & [EO 11990](#) (Wetlands Protection). [24 CFR Part 55](#) are HUD's regulations developed to establish standards to ensure compliance with both Executive Orders (EOs).

---

**STEP 1: Determine if the proposed project is in a 100-year floodplain (or 500-year floodplain for critical actions) and/or a wetland. If yes, move forward with the 8-Step Process.**

- Information to Gather:
  - Proposed Project Location/Address
  - FEMA FIRMette: Map #, Panel #, Effective Date, Flood Zone.
  - National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map: Wetland Classification
- Does this project qualify as a Critical Action?

**STEP 2: Publish the Early Notice. Notify the public for early review of the proposal and involve the affected and interested public in the decision-making process.**

- Notice Information: Project Description, Location, Type and Size of Special Flood Hazard Area, Type/Classification and size of wetland, beneficial functions and values of natural features that may be affected, contact info, & office address and hours.
- 15-day minimum for the notice.
- Include any responses to any comments in the 8-Step document.
- Contact VCDP Environmental Officer for a template and guidance.



**STEP 3: Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives.**



**STEP 4: Identify potential direct & indirect impacts associated with floodplain and/or wetland development.**

- Lives & Property
  - How many residents/workers are being introduced into the development area?
  - What is the cost/value of the proposed development?
- Beneficial Floodplain or Wetland Values:
  - Water Resources- Flood moderation, water quality maintenance, & groundwater recharge.
  - Climate Resources- Effects of changes in landcover.

**STEP 5: Design or modify the proposed action to minimize the potential adverse impacts to lives, property, & natural values in the floodplain and/or wetland and to preserve its value.**





## **STEP 6: Re-evaluate the alternatives.**

- Is the proposed project still practicable considering exposure to flood hazards?
- Are the alternatives rejected at Step 3 now practicable due to information gained in Step 4 & 5?
- Consider impacts to: human life, real property, & the beneficial functions and values of the natural features of the floodplain and/or wetland.
- Re-evaluation: Include a review of the economic costs of each alternative.

## **STEP 7: Publish Final Notice-Determination of no practicable alternative.**

- Notice Information:
  - Justify why the development must be located on this site.
  - Include a list of alternative site(s) considered under Step 3.
  - Cite all mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore the floodplain and/or wetland.
  - 15-day minimum for the notice.
  - Include responses to any comments in the 8-Step document.
  - Contact the Environmental Officer for a template & guidance.

## **STEP 8: Implement the proposed action.**

- After taking public comments into consideration, the project can move forward.
- Mitigation measures will be conveyed to the sponsor in writing via the Environmental Release & Environmental Review Record (ERR) on GEARS.



## Environmental Review Contact Information

---

Grace Vinson, Environmental Officer  
Agency of Commerce & Community Development, DHCD  
grace.vinson@vermont.gov, 802-622-4236

Gretel St. Lawrence, Environmental Specialist  
Agency of Commerce & Community Development, DHCD  
gretel.stlawrence@vermont.gov, 802-636-7255