

APPENDIX 3.1 OSMRE REVIEW PROCESS FOR AML ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

The OSMRE Review Process for AML Environmental Documents Prepared by a State or Tribal Agency for NEPA Compliance

After the state or tribal agency completes the required environmental review document, the state or tribal agency must send the completed environmental document to the appropriate OSMRE awarding office for review.

Review Process

1. The awarding office will conduct a systematic review to determine adequacy of the environmental document. This review may include a site visit to verify the accuracy of information in the document.
2. Any issues raised during review of the document should be resolved with the state or tribe through telephone conversations, meetings or site visits.
3. If the document is adequate, the RD or authorized official signs the FONSI or Categorical Exclusion Determination, and notifies the state or tribal agency that the NEPA review is complete.

If the environmental document is not adequate, the awarding office may return the environmental document to the state or tribe with the reasons why it is not adequate, or may supplement the document as needed to make it adequate. Although rare, the awarding office could determine that a detailed environmental impact statement is required. If so, the awarding office will notify the state or tribe with the reasons why.

4. The awarding office will select AML projects to inspect during and after construction to confirm the implementation of any commitments or stipulations stated in the environmental document.