



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

BDE PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM

NUMBER: 20-06

SUBJECT: BDE Manual Revision – Chapter 11

DATE: June 19, 2020

Chapter 11 of the BDE Manual has been revised to provide guidance on appropriately implementing a Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) process for certain types of Department projects (e.g., complex Categorical Exclusions, Environmental Assessments, and Environmental Impact Statements).

Background

Per the FHWA *Integration of Planning and NEPA Processes Memorandum*, dated February 22, 2005, and Federal Acts authorizing funds for Federal-Aid highway projects (i.e., SAFETEA-LU, MAP-21, and FAST ACT), the planning process and NEPA can be designed to work in conjunction so that the results of the planning process can flow directly into NEPA.

Ideally, a NEPA-ready Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Carried Forward should result from the PEL process.

Section 11-7 describes this process.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jack A. Elston', written over a horizontal line.

Jack A. Elston, P.E.
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Design and Environment