

**Sound Transit/WSDOT Re-Alignment  
Issue Paper No. 34**

<b>TOPIC:</b>	Combined NEPA Categorical Exclusion Processes
<b>ACTION SPONSOR TEAM:</b>	Environmental Action Team
<b>PRIMARY AUTHOR(S):</b>	Sheila North, FTA
<b>APPLICABLE PROJECTS:</b>	Co-Lead FTA/FHWA
<b>DATE OF FIRST DRAFT:</b>	March 1, 2001
<b>ISSUE:</b>	Guidance about Categorical Exclusions under NEPA
<b>CURRENT STATUS:</b>	Final
<b>DATE APPROVED:</b>	November 7, 2002

**BACKGROUND:**

Categorical Exclusions (CEs), or Class II projects under NEPA, are actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment and thus avoid further environmental analysis under NEPA. Actions identified in 23 CFR 771.117(c) that meet the criteria of 23 CFR 771.117(a) do not require further environmental approvals by the federal agency. FTA and FHWA both follow the guidelines as stated in 23 CFR 771.117. However, FTA and FHWA have different form and processes for CE screening and required documentation.

**DECISIONS:**

Categorical Exclusion (Class II (c) and Class II (d)) determinations will be made using the current version of the attached Environmental Review Worksheet for Potential Categorical Exclusions.

**Process: The Environmental Review Worksheet will be forwarded concurrently to the Federal agencies. If issues result, the Federal agencies will consult each other.**

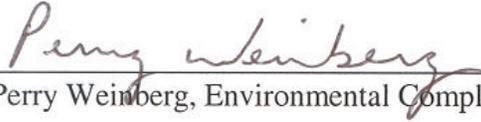


**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM DECISION ON ISSUE PAPER NO. 34:  
Combined CE Processes**

**AGREED TO ON November 7, 2002 BY:**



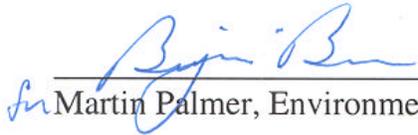
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Linda Gehrke, Deputy Regional Administrator, FTA



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Perry Weinberg, Environmental Compliance Manager, ST



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Sharon P. Love, Environmental Program Manager, FHWA



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