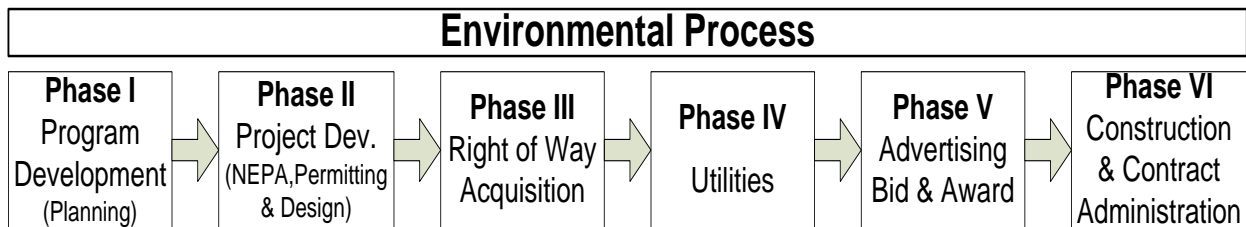


This chapter details project development requirements for any local agency operating as a certified local agency and is applicable to all federal-aid projects on NHS (National Highway System) and Non-NHS routes. This chapter of the *LAG Manual* provides an outline of the environmental procedures that a certified local agency must follow when a project involves federal funds. For a complete description of environmental processes and procedures required for local agency STIP projects, refer to ODOT’s [Geo-Environmental Section website](#).

Environmental issues must be considered as early as possible in the planning and development of a project. In the sequence of project delivery, the environmental process related to NEPA occurs concurrently with project development but generally prior to right of way acquisition. All environmental processes continue throughout the project.



A. Overview

Per federal regulation, ODOT retains responsibility for Environmental Classification services that require federal approval. Therefore, ODOT will provide review, quality assurance and approval services to both certified and non-certified local agencies for their environmental classification documents and submittals. ODOT will submit local agency prepared environmental classification documents to FHWA for concurrence.

FHWA’s approval of [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#) decisions must not be misconstrued as a guaranteed approval of any other local, state or federal requirement. The local agency is responsible for obtaining all necessary environmental permits and clearances. The local agency may utilize the analysis completed in the NEPA compliance process to assist in the completion of applicable permits. The local agency must work with other applicable agencies as appropriate, to provide the required analyses to complete their local, state and federal permit obligations.

See Chapter 5, Environmental Process in Section B of this *LAG Manual* for additional details and requirements.