

Sample Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds

The sample language below is HUD's recommended wording of the combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds. This Notice is used for projects requiring an Environmental Assessment (24 CFR Part 58, Section 58.36). Words in **bold type** are required language. Words in *italics* are to be replaced by language appropriate to the particular project and Responsible Entity.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Date of Notice

Name of Responsible Entity [RE]

Address (e.g., Street No. or P.O. Box)

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone Number of RE

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the *name of RE or grant recipient*.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about at least one day after the end of the comment period the name of RE will if the RE is not also the grant recipient, insert the following language here: "authorize the [name of grant recipient] to" submit a request to the HUD/State administering agency for the release of name of grant program funds under Title/Section [] of the name of the Act of [year], as amended, to undertake a project known as project title for the purpose of nature/scope of project, estimated funding (include non-HUD funding sources if applicable) and project location if applicable.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The name of RE has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at name and address of RE office where ERR can be examined and name and address of other locations where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays __A.M to __P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the *RE* designated office responsible for receiving and responding to comments. All comments received by if notice is published: publication date plus fifteen days; if notice is mailed and posted: mailing and posting date plus eighteen days will be considered by the name of *RE* prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The name of *RE* certifies to HUD/State that name of Certifying Officer in his/her capacity as Official Title consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the name of grant recipient to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD/State will accept objections to its release of fund and the *RE*'s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the name of *RE*; (b) the *RE* has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD/State; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD/State administration office at address of that office. Potential objectors should contact HUD/State to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Name and Title of RE Certifying Officer

Note: The fifteen or eighteen-day public comment periods are the minimum time periods required by regulation prior to submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Certification (form HUD-7015.15) to HUD/State. The Responsible Entity may choose to allow a longer comment period. 24 CFR Part 58 requires, at Section 58.46, "Time delays for exceptional circumstances," a 30-day comment period for controversial or unique projects or those similar to projects normally requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The fifteen-day objection period is a statutory requirement. The objection period follows the submission date specified in the Notice or the actual date of receipt by HUD/State, whichever is later.

Following completion of the comment period recipients may FAX the form HUD-7015.15 to HUD/State together with a copy of the public notice and a cover letter stating whether comments were received and, if so, how the recipient responded to the comment. The Request for Release of Funds and Certification should not be submitted before the recipient has responded. If the request is sent by FAX, the original signed form should be mailed to HUD/State. The date of receipt by FAX will be counted as the submission date. However, HUD will not issue the 7015.16 "Authority to Use Grant Funds" until after the original signed form is received.