

RD AN No. 4632 (1940-G)
March 21, 2012

TO: State Directors
Rural Development

ATTN: Program Directors, Area Directors, and State Environmental Coordinators

FROM: Tammye Treviño (Signed by Tammye Treviño)
Administrator
Housing and Community Facilities Programs

SUBJECT: NEPA Compliance for Rural Development Single Family Housing Loan
Programs

PURPOSE/INTENDED OUTCOME:

The purpose of this Administrative Notice (AN) is to provide clarification and guidance on the application of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) process under Rural Development (RD) Instruction 1940-G to the Rural Development Single Family Housing Loan Programs.

BACKGROUND:

The nature of existing leases for gas and oil exploration varies but most allow development activities on a landowner's property. Such development activities determined by the producer to be necessary to oil and/or gas well exploration and production could include site preparation and site access work.

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

This Administrative Notice reaffirms the use of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) under RD Instruction 1940.310(b) to provide financial assistance for the purchase of a single family dwelling on these properties. The presence of gas leases on a property alone does not constitute any of the special circumstances listed in that instruction or the policy considerations contained in RD Instruction 1940.303 through 1940.305. Normal security and appraisal requirements under RD Instruction 1980-D and RD Handbook 3550 continue to apply for these properties.

EXPIRATION DATE:
April 30, 2013

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
RD Instruction 1940-G