

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
(FONSI)**

**United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT)  
Potential Changes to Immigration and Border Management Processes  
Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)**

**Proposed Action:** Through a multi-agency coordinated effort, US-VISIT is considering potential changes to immigration and border management processes. Changes call for a program to establish:

- A system for capturing the unique identity of travelers,
- A system of data quality and standardization,
- An integrated computer network that will provide the right information to the right users in the right context, and
- A system for recording and associating entry, exit and status events.

**Summary of Fact and Conclusions:**

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal agency decision-makers are required to consider the environmental consequences of their decisions before they act. US-VISIT prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), incorporated here by reference, to document its consideration of the potential environmental effects of proposed changes to immigration and border management processes as well as alternative ways to make the changes. US-VISIT took a programmatic approach to the analysis because, no matter where implemented, the proposed actions have common timing, common impacts, common alternatives, common methods of implementation and common subject matter. The PEA contains a qualitative analysis.

US-VISIT concluded, based on the evaluation in the PEA and input received from other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) components, other agencies, and the public that no significant impacts would result from implementation of any of the alternatives analyzed. US-VISIT determined potential environmental impacts by reviewing plans and programs, technical literature, environmental baseline data, previous analyses and applying expert judgment.

US-VISIT distributed and made the Draft PEA available to the public and other agencies for review and comment. During a 30-day comment period, US-VISIT held seven public meetings across the country; US-VISIT received 32 comment documents during the comment period. Summaries of and responses to substantive comments are included in the Final PEA.

### **Programmatic Monitoring and Mitigation Measures and Strategies:**

The Programmatic EA contains an examination of the potential for significant environmental impacts from implementation of the proposed action and other reasonable alternatives at a strategic level. As a result of the analysis, US-VISIT does not anticipate that implementation of the program will have significant impacts. However, US-VISIT is committed to monitoring the impacts and adapting the program to mitigate potential environmental impacts. The following measures and strategies will be implemented at a programmatic level:

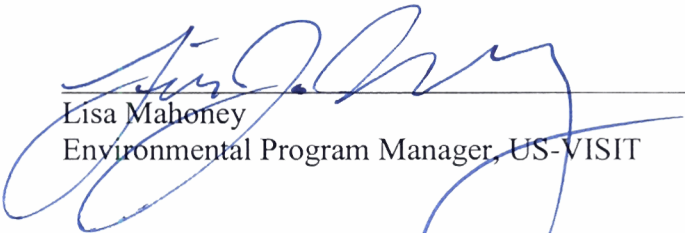
1. Integrate environmental monitoring into traffic modeling processes so that environmental stewardship is part of normal business practices.
2. Develop and maintain a toolbox of strategies and information for monitoring, mitigation and stewardship. At a minimum, the toolbox will contain:
  - a. Results of pilot studies.
  - b. Strategies for implementing adaptive management.
  - c. An environmental policy.
  - d. American Indian Government-to-Government Relations Guidance.
  - e. Mitigation strategies.
  - f. An Environmental Management System.
  - g. An environmentally-friendly procurement policy.
3. If an area is currently in non-attainment or maintenance from a past National Ambient Air Quality Standard exceedance, coordinate with appropriate state agencies, as necessary, to ensure traffic modeling data-quality standards (e.g., assumptions, how data is collected processed and verified) are consistent with the state's requirements.
4. To respect cultural and American Indian resources, all contractors, as a contract condition, will be required to prepare an Unintentional Discovery Plan. There will be maintained, within the toolbox, information on historic properties, a record of interactions with SHPOs and THPOs, and a template for an Unintentional Discovery Plan.
5. To enhance the efficient use of energy, develop a protocol for energy efficiency and use of energy conservation strategies. Goals will be adopted for the use of renewable energy, such as those already being implemented by DHS. System-wide, the Energy Policy Act will be followed in order to enhance energy efficiency.
6. To minimize the potential for environmental impacts over the life-cycle of the program, develop strategies to foster meeting the requirements for the Greening the Government Executive Orders and to recycle electronic equipment when taken out of service. Examine policies or guidance for dealing with specific waste associated with the introduction of new technologies and participate in the DHS electronic waste recycling challenge.

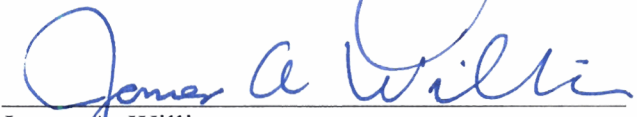
7. To ensure consideration of the potential for environmental effects in Canada and Mexico, and during the process of preparing tiered analyses to determine impacts in the United States, generate and analyze transboundary data in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality guidance.

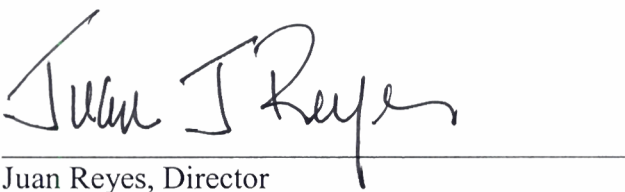
**Approval:**

The Department of Homeland Security has determined that proposed changes to the immigration and border management processes, through implementation of the Hybrid Alternative, will not result in significant impacts on the human environment at a programmatic level and therefore preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

After careful consideration of the facts contained herein, the undersigned finds that the proposed federal action is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives as set forth in Section 101 (a) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and complies with the procedural provisions of NEPA.

Recommended:  4-10-06  
Lisa Mahoney  
Environmental Program Manager, US-VISIT  
Date

Recommended:  4-10-06  
James A. Williams  
Director, US-VISIT  
Date

Approved:  4/11/06  
Juan Reyes, Director  
Office of Safety And Environmental Programs  
Department of Homeland Security  
Date