



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

# Federal Highway Administration

## Environmental Flow Charts

December 1998

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(All sections are located in alphabetical order)

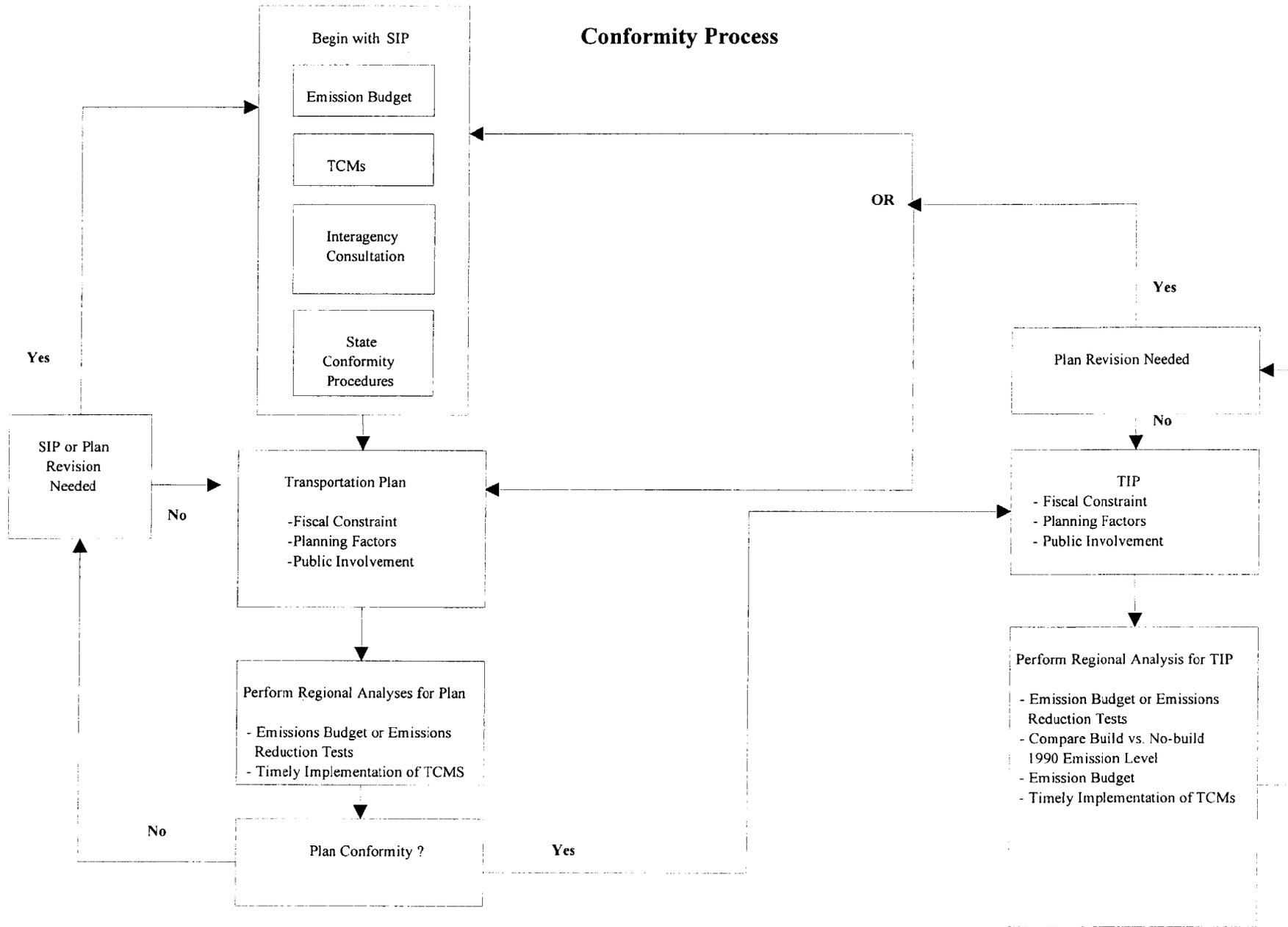
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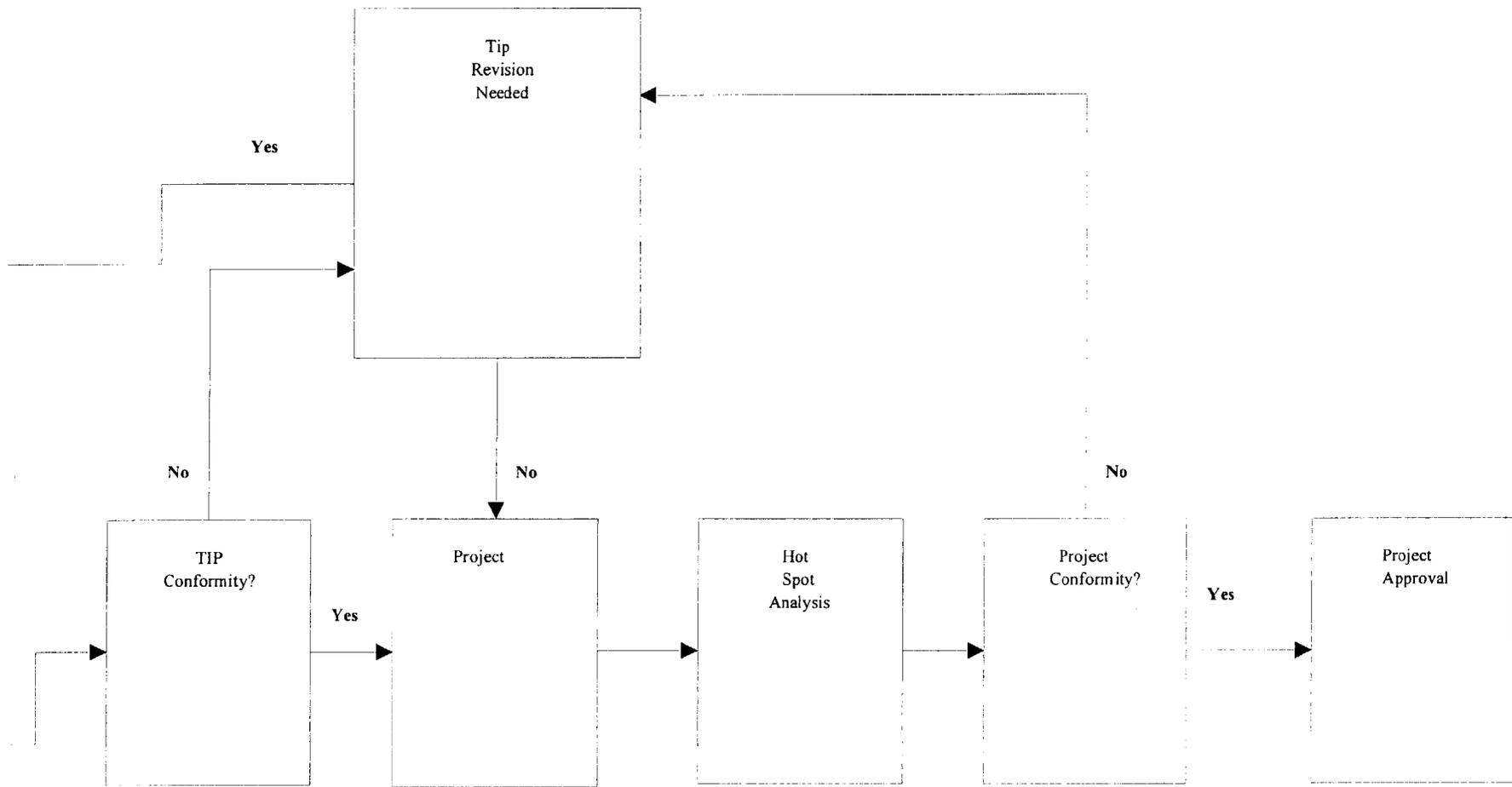
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**ABBREVIATIONS  
USED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
FLOW CHARTS**

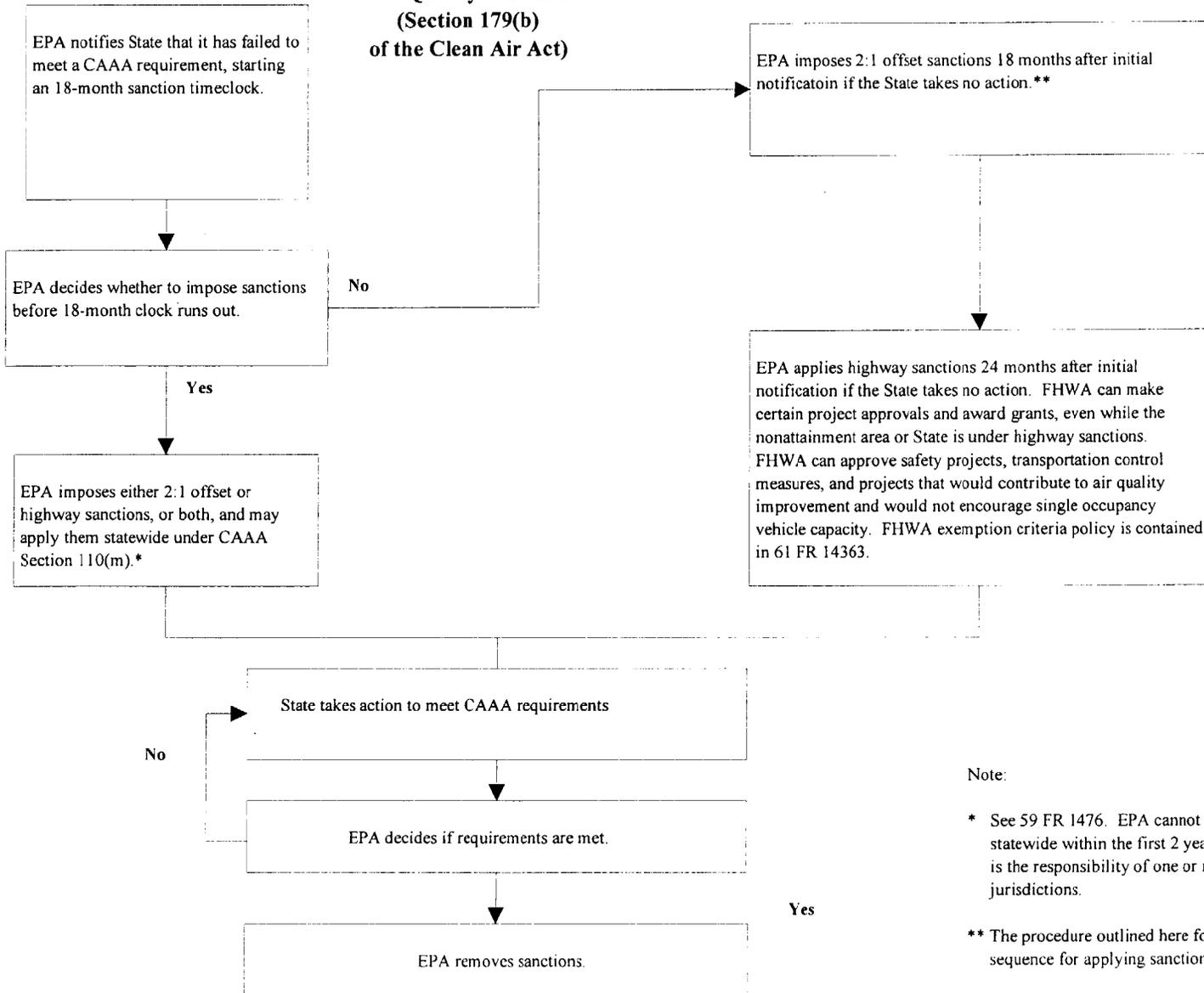
<b>ACHP</b> .....	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	<b>FWS</b> .....	Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>BA</b> .....	Biological Assessment	<b>HC</b> .....	Hydrocarbons
<b>BMP</b> .....	Best Management Practices	<b>MOA</b> .....	Memorandum of Agreement
<b>CBR</b> .....	Coastal Barrier Resources	<b>MPO</b> .....	Metropolitan Planning Organization
<b>CBRA</b> .....	Coastal Barrier Resources Act	<b>NAAQS</b> ....	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
<b>CE</b> .....	Categorical Exclusion	<b>NEPA</b> .....	National Environmental Policy Act
<b>CEA</b> .....	Council of Economic Advisors	<b>NFIP</b> .....	National Flood Insurance Program
<b>CH</b> .....	Critical Habitat	<b>NMFS</b> .....	National Marine Fisheries Service
<b>CO</b> .....	Carbon Monoxide	<b>NOAA</b> .....	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>COE</b> .....	Corps of Engineers	<b>NO</b> .....	Nitrogen Oxides
<b>CZ</b> .....	Coastal Zone	<b>NPL</b> .....	National Priorities List
<b>CZM</b> .....	Coastal Zone Management	<b>NPS</b> .....	National Park Service
<b>DOI</b> .....	Department of the Interior	<b>NR</b> .....	National Register of Historic Places
<b>EA</b> .....	Environmental Assessment	<b>PE</b> .....	Preliminary Engineering
<b>EIS</b> .....	Environmental Impact Statement	<b>PL</b> .....	Public Law
<b>EO</b> .....	Executive Order	<b>RFW</b> .....	Regulatory Floodway
<b>EPA</b> .....	Environmental Protection Agency	<b>ROW</b> .....	Right-of-Way
<b>ESA</b> .....	Endangered Species Act	<b>NRCS</b> .....	Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>FEMA</b> .....	Federal Emergency Management Agency	<b>SHA</b> .....	State Highway Administration
<b>FHBM</b> .....	Flood Hazard Boundary Map	<b>SHPO</b> .....	State Historic Preservation Officer (Office)
<b>FHWA</b> .....	Federal Highway Administration	<b>SIP</b> .....	State Implementation Plan
<b>FIA</b> .....	Federal Insurance Administration	<b>TIP</b> .....	Transportation Implementation Plan
<b>FIF</b> .....	Flood Insurance Fund	<b>TCM</b> .....	Transportation Control Measures
<b>FIRM</b> .....	Flood Insurance Rate Map	<b>TVA</b> .....	Tennessee Valley Authority
<b>FONSI</b> .....	Finding of No Significant Impact	<b>FTA</b> .....	Federal Transit Administration
<b>FPPA</b> .....	Farmland Protection Policy Act	<b>USDA</b> .....	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>FWCA</b> .....	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	<b>USGS</b> .....	United States Geological Survey

# Conformity Process





**Air Quality Sanctions  
(Section 179(b)  
of the Clean Air Act)**

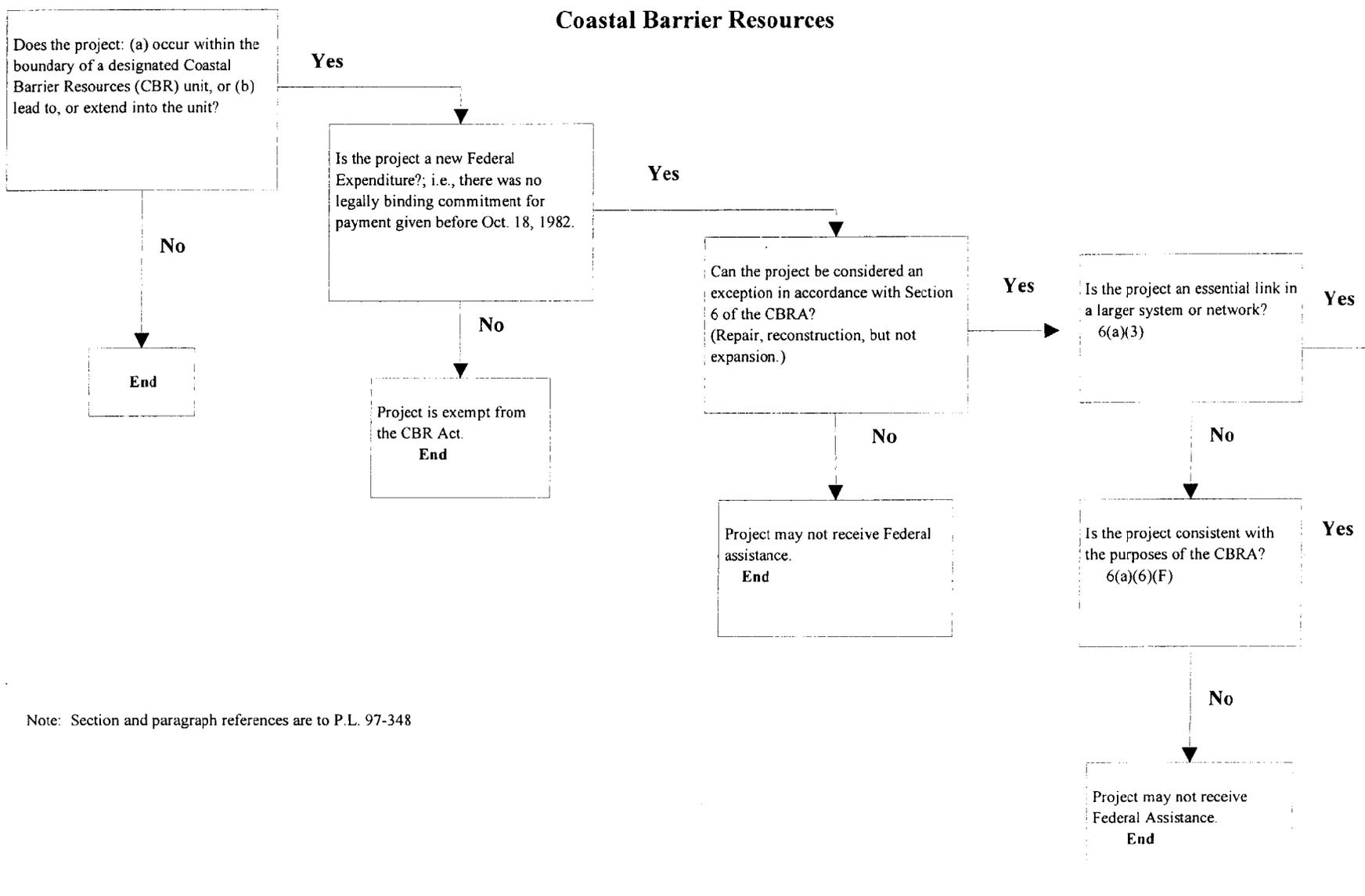


Note:

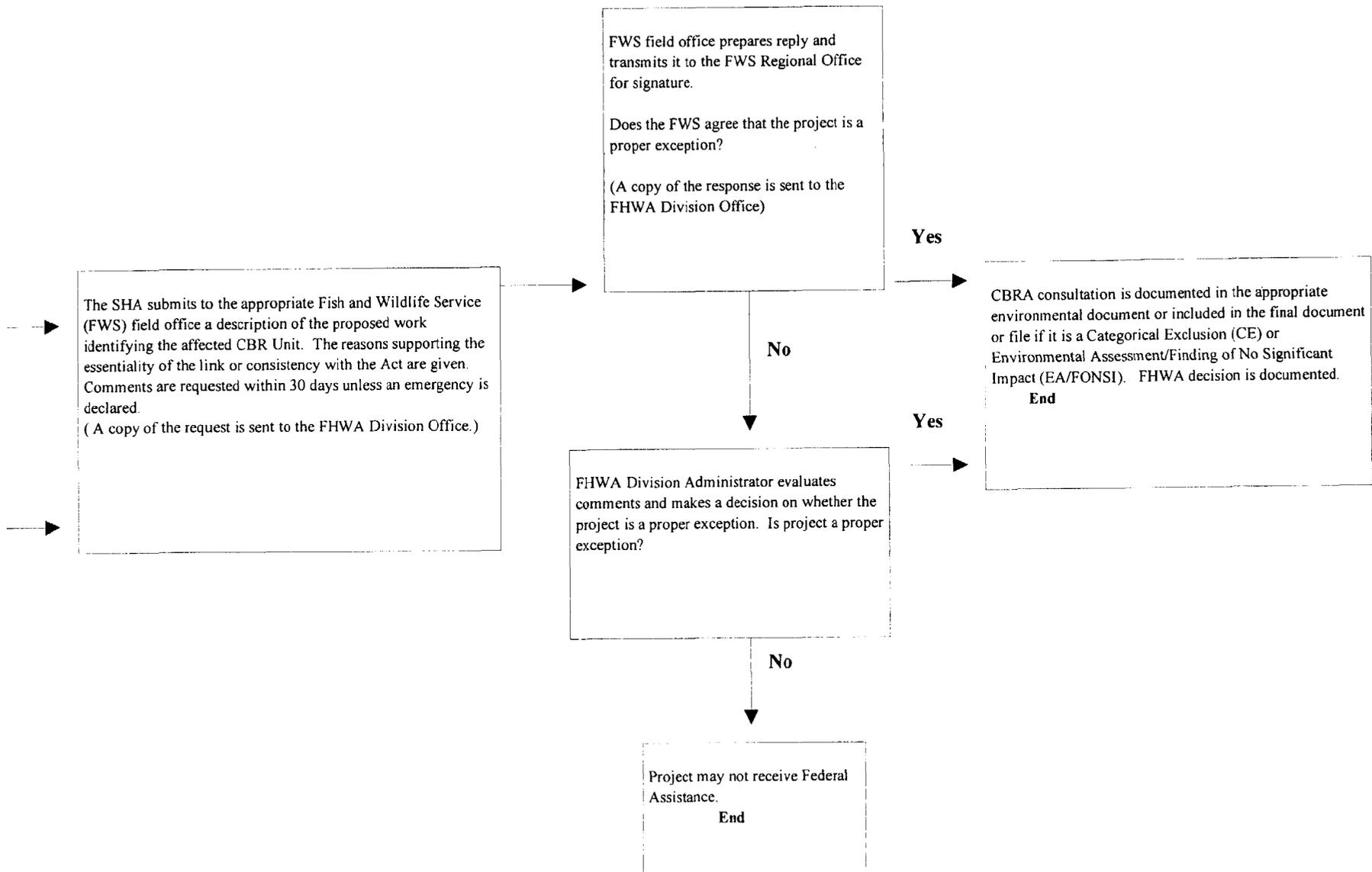
\* See 59 FR 1476. EPA cannot impose sanctions statewide within the first 2 years if the deficiency is the responsibility of one or more local jurisdictions.

\*\* The procedure outlined here follows EPA's proposed sequence for applying sanctions (see 59 FR 39832).

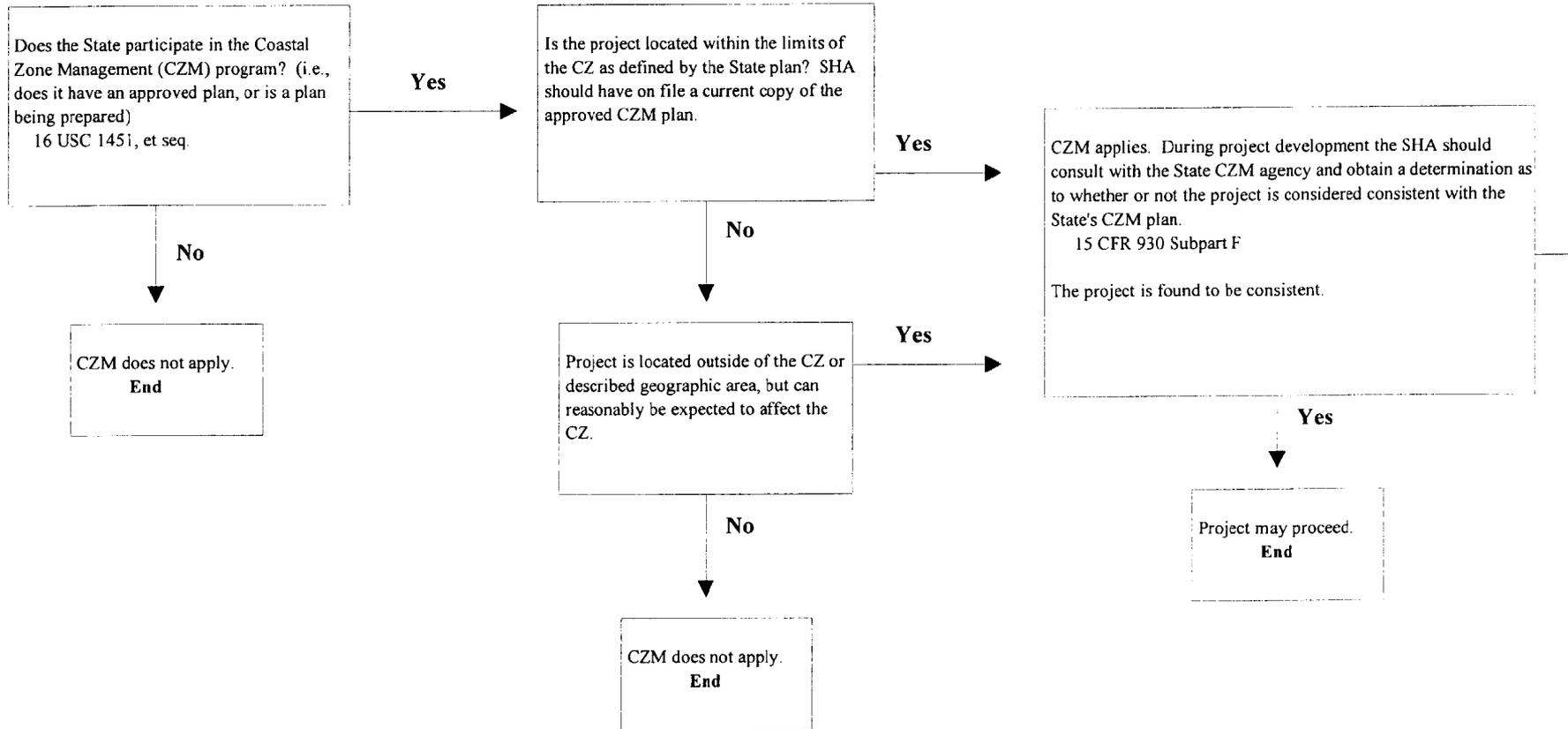
## Coastal Barrier Resources



Note: Section and paragraph references are to P.L. 97-348

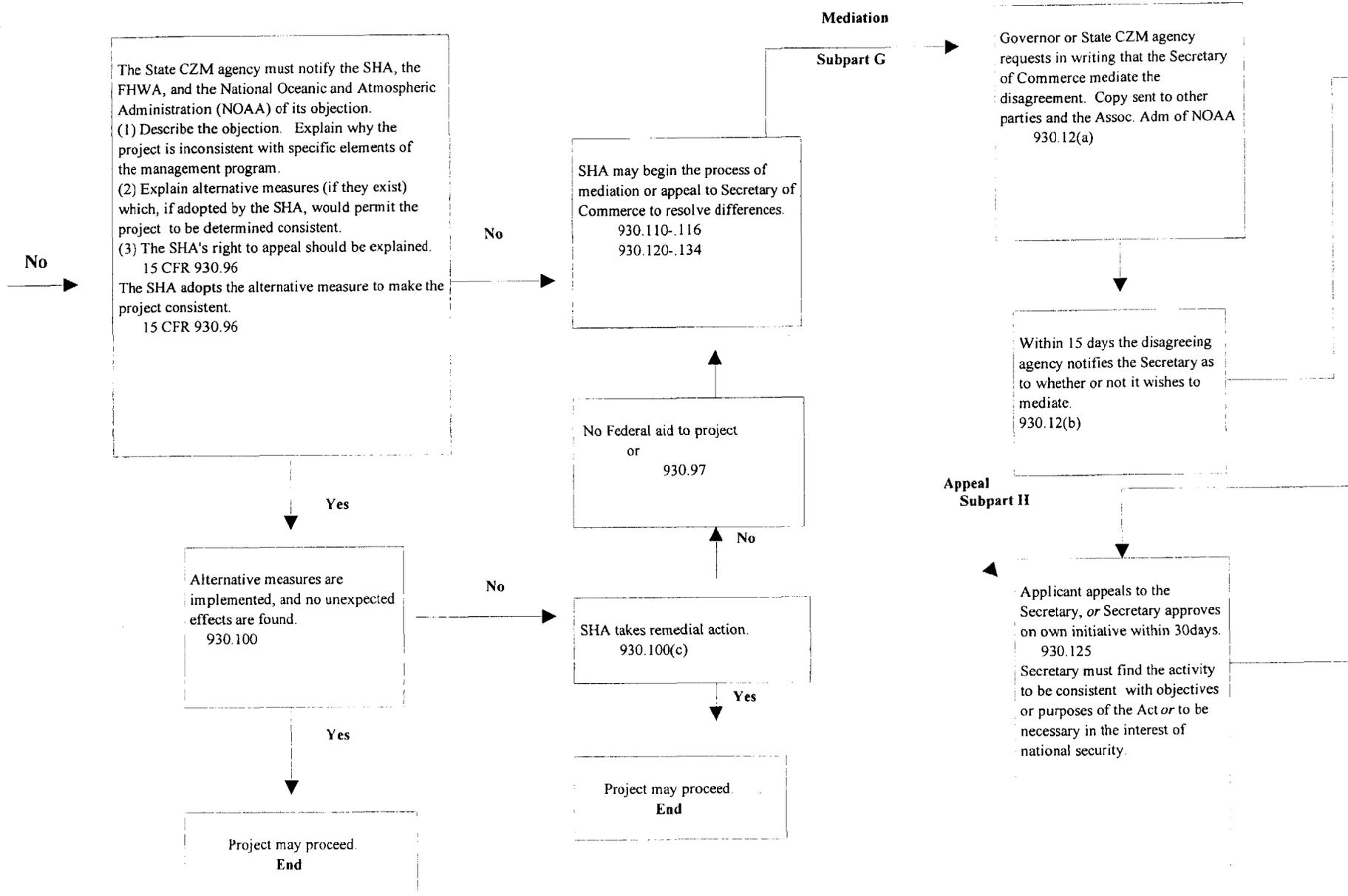


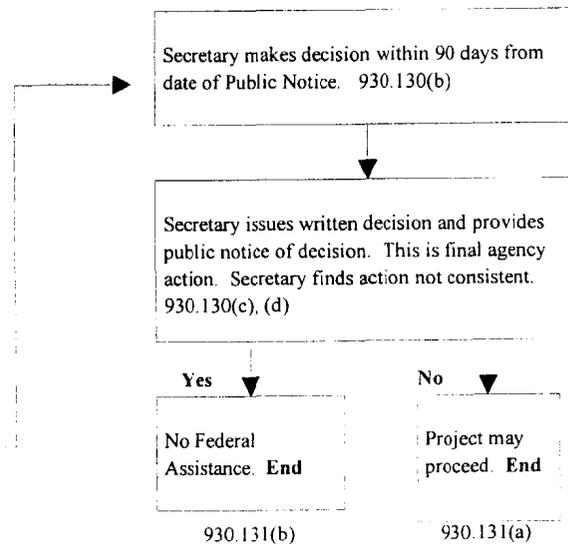
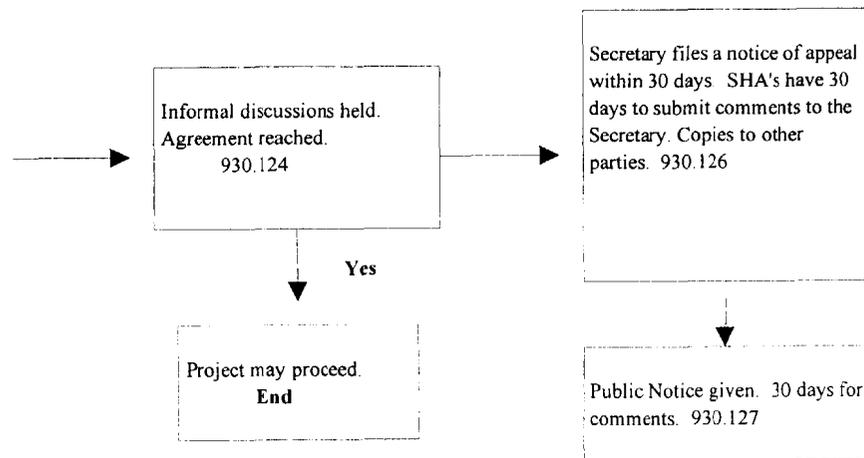
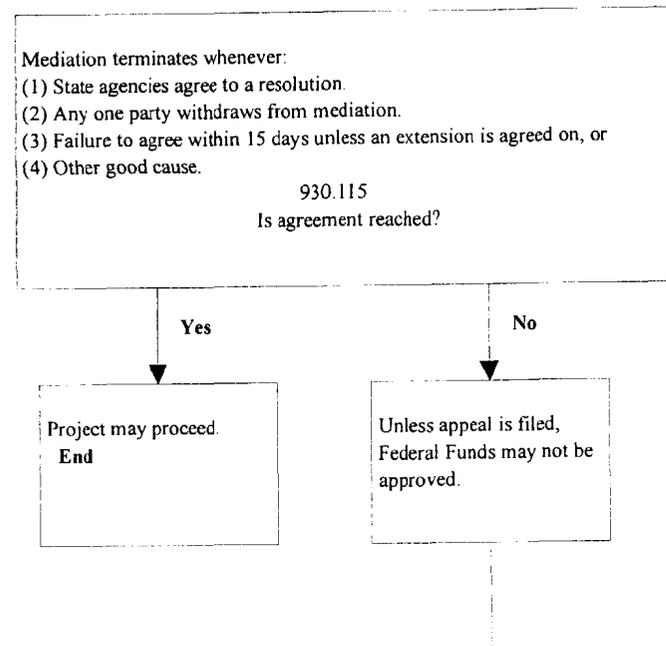
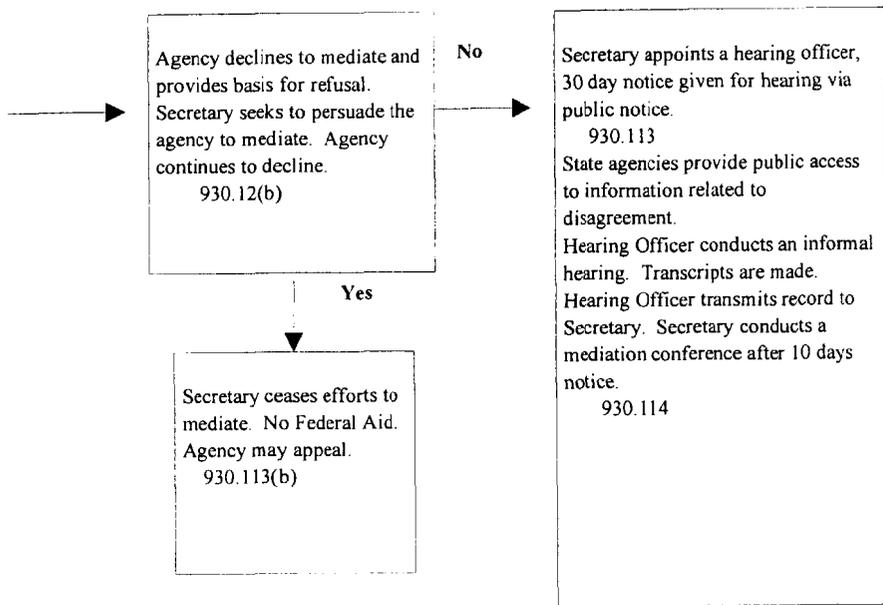
## Coastal Zone Management



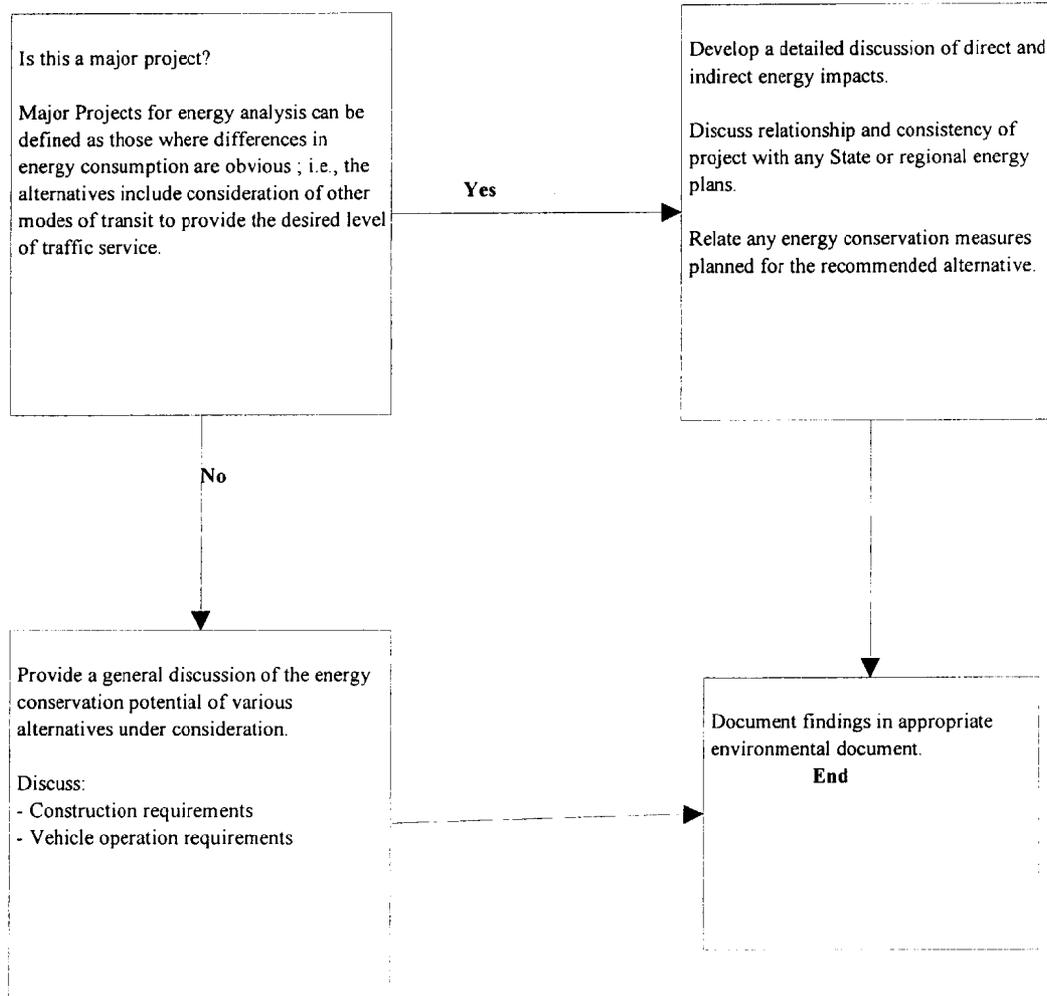
**Notes:**

- The FHWA should never find itself in a position of pursuing a CZM appeal from the point of view of Federal need. Disagreements (re: consistency) represent disagreements between the SHA and the State CZM agency. Since CZM is a voluntary State program not mandated by Federal law, policy disagreements must be resolved at the **State level**.
- 15 CFR Part 930 is the applicable Federal regulation. Subpart F, Consistency for Federal Assistance to State and local governments, is appropriate for Federal-aid projects.

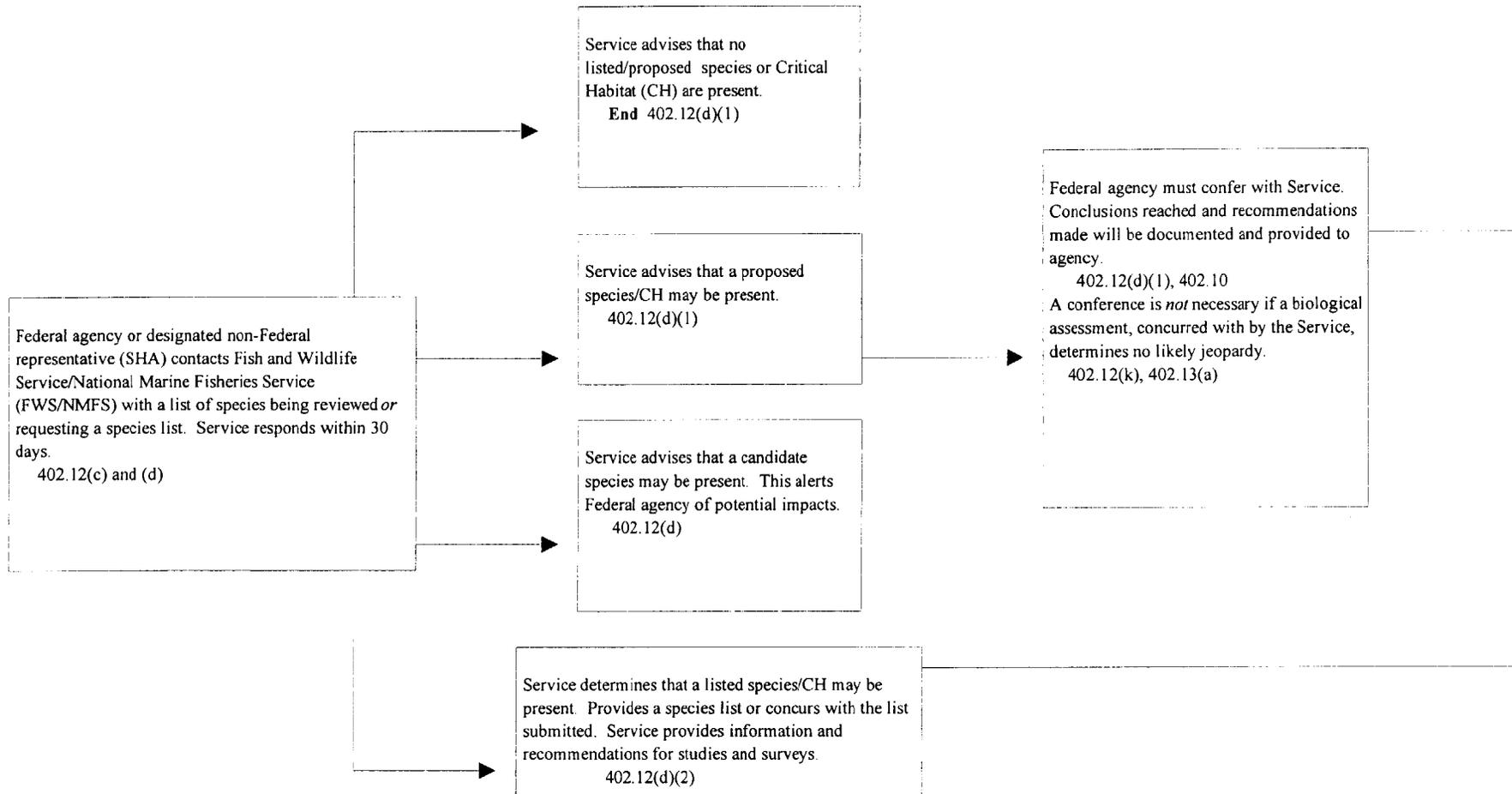




# Energy



## Endangered Species \*



\* The procedures for Informal/Formal consultation have been charted.

**Informal consultation** (402.13) includes all the discussions, correspondence, etc. that lead to a finding by the Service that a listed species or CH would or would not be affected.

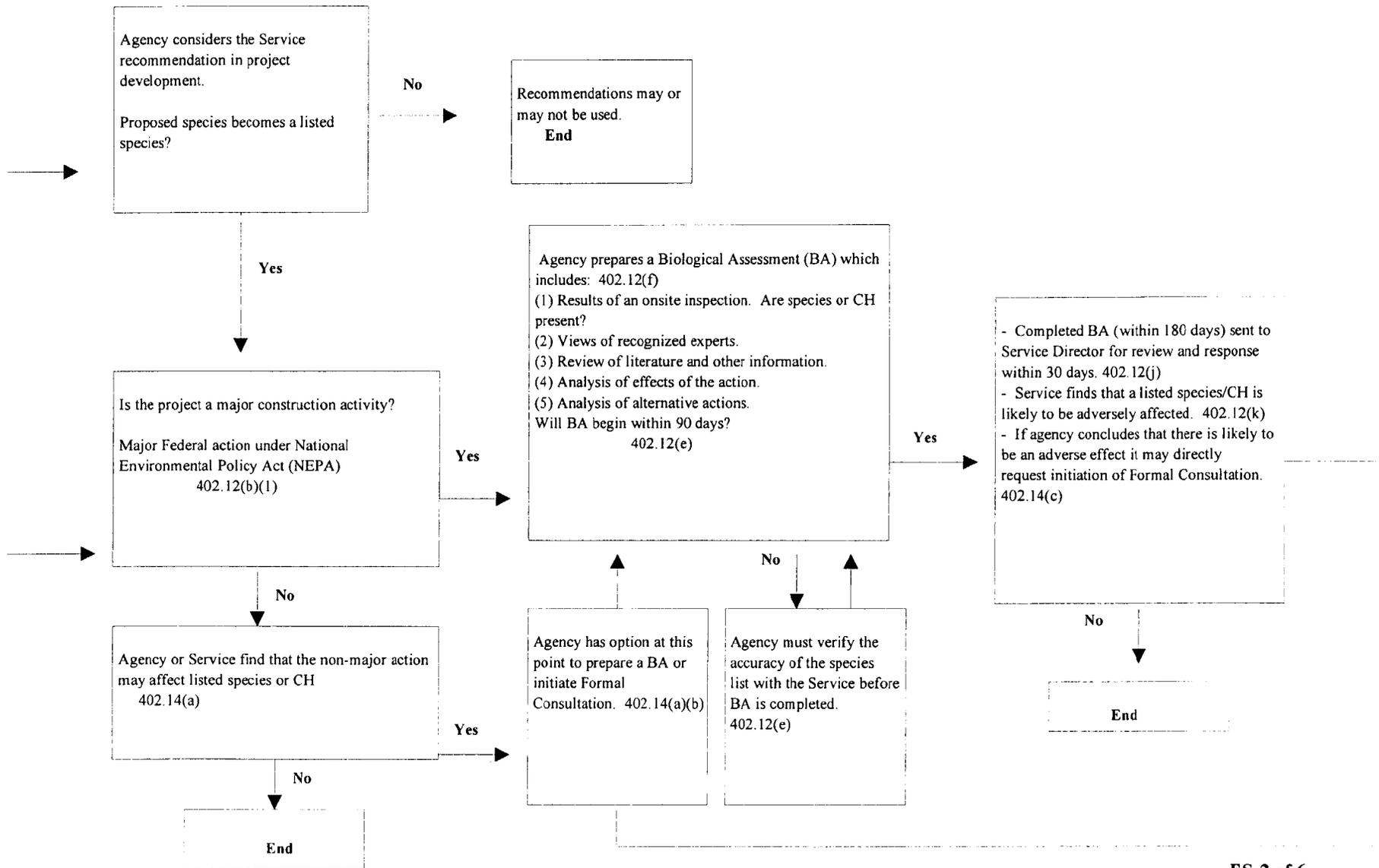
**Formal consultation** begins after the Service finds that a listed species or CH will be affected.

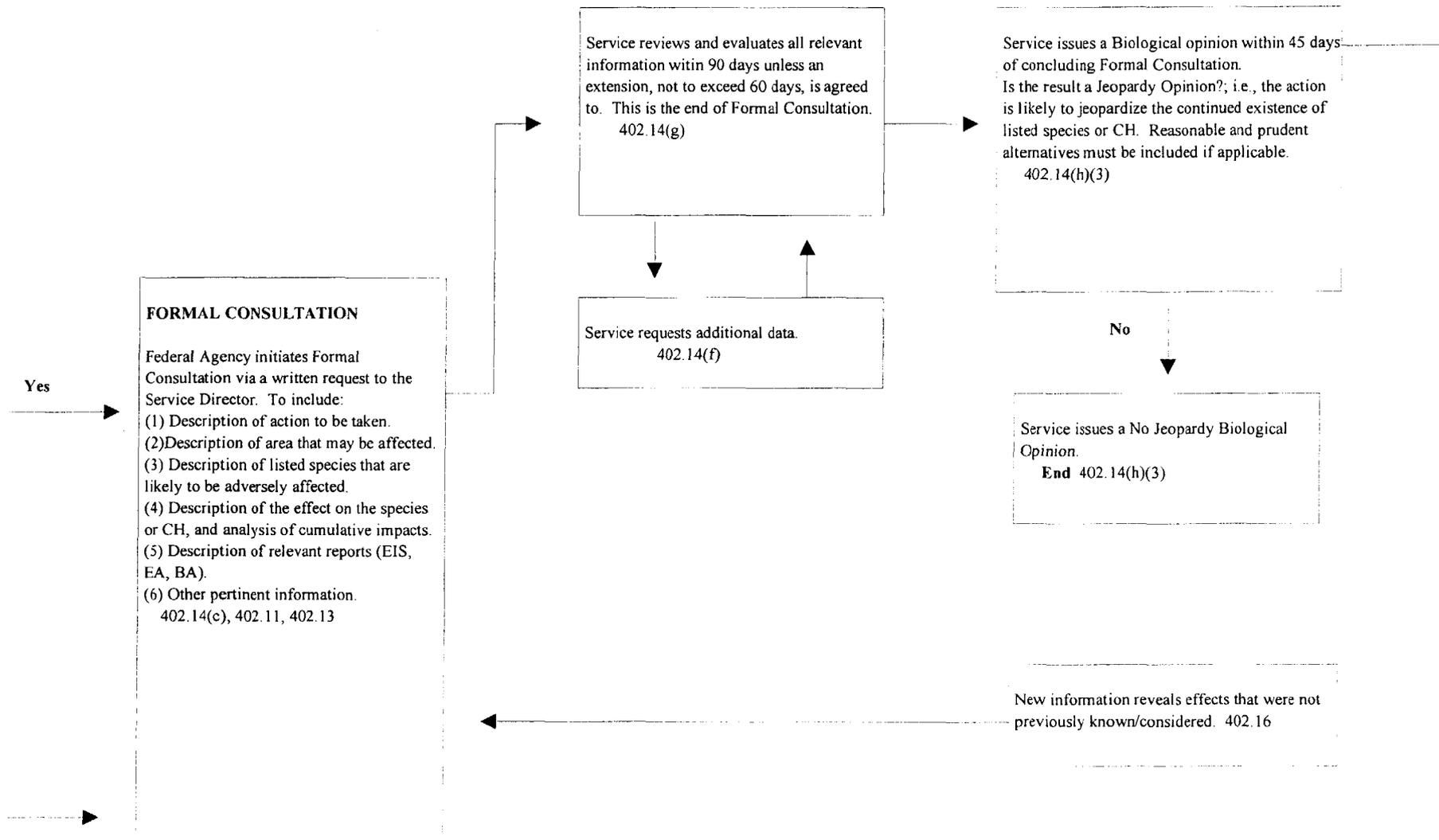
Procedures for **Early Consultation** (402.11) are intended primarily for private sector application for a Federal permit or license. They are, however, the same as Formal consultation with minor changes in nomenclature.

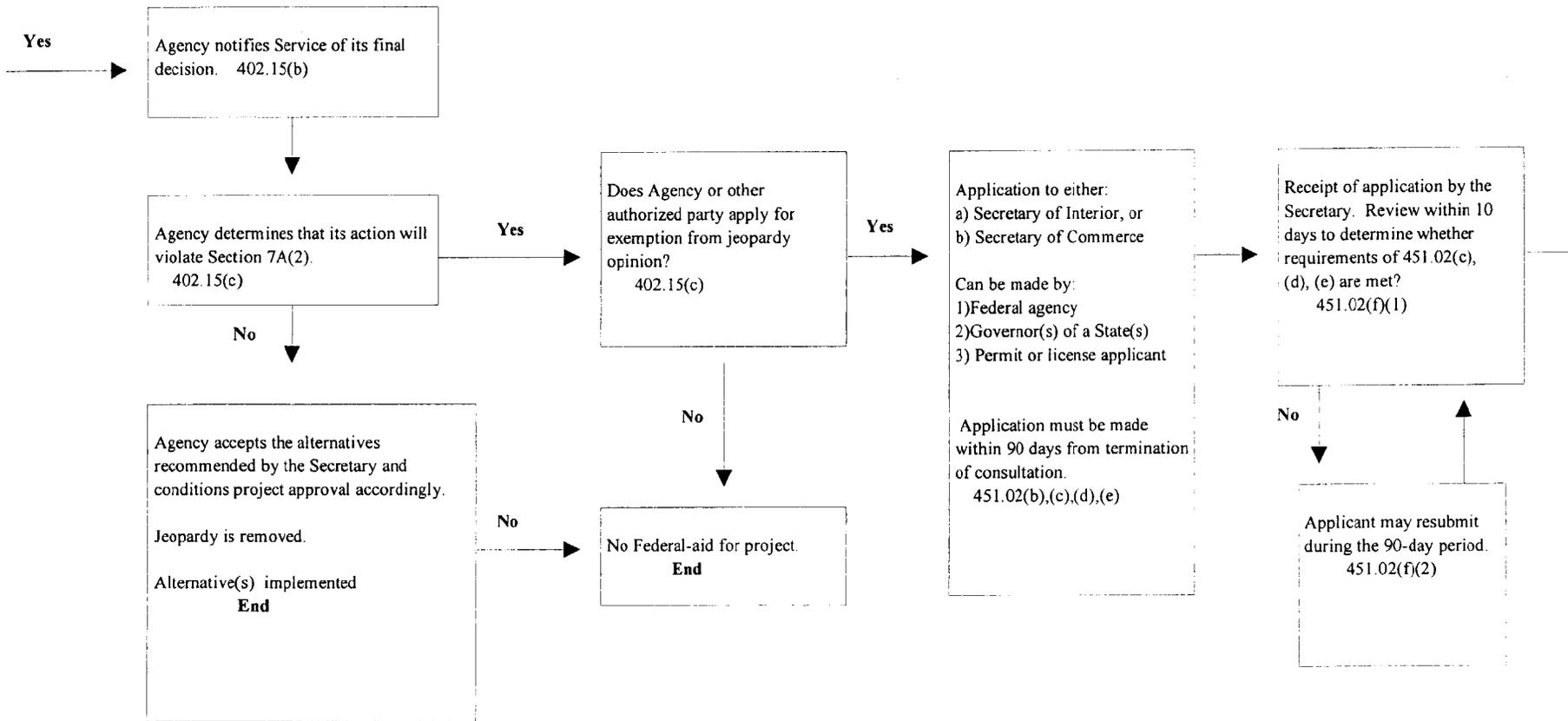
Applicable Federal regulation is 50 CFR 402.

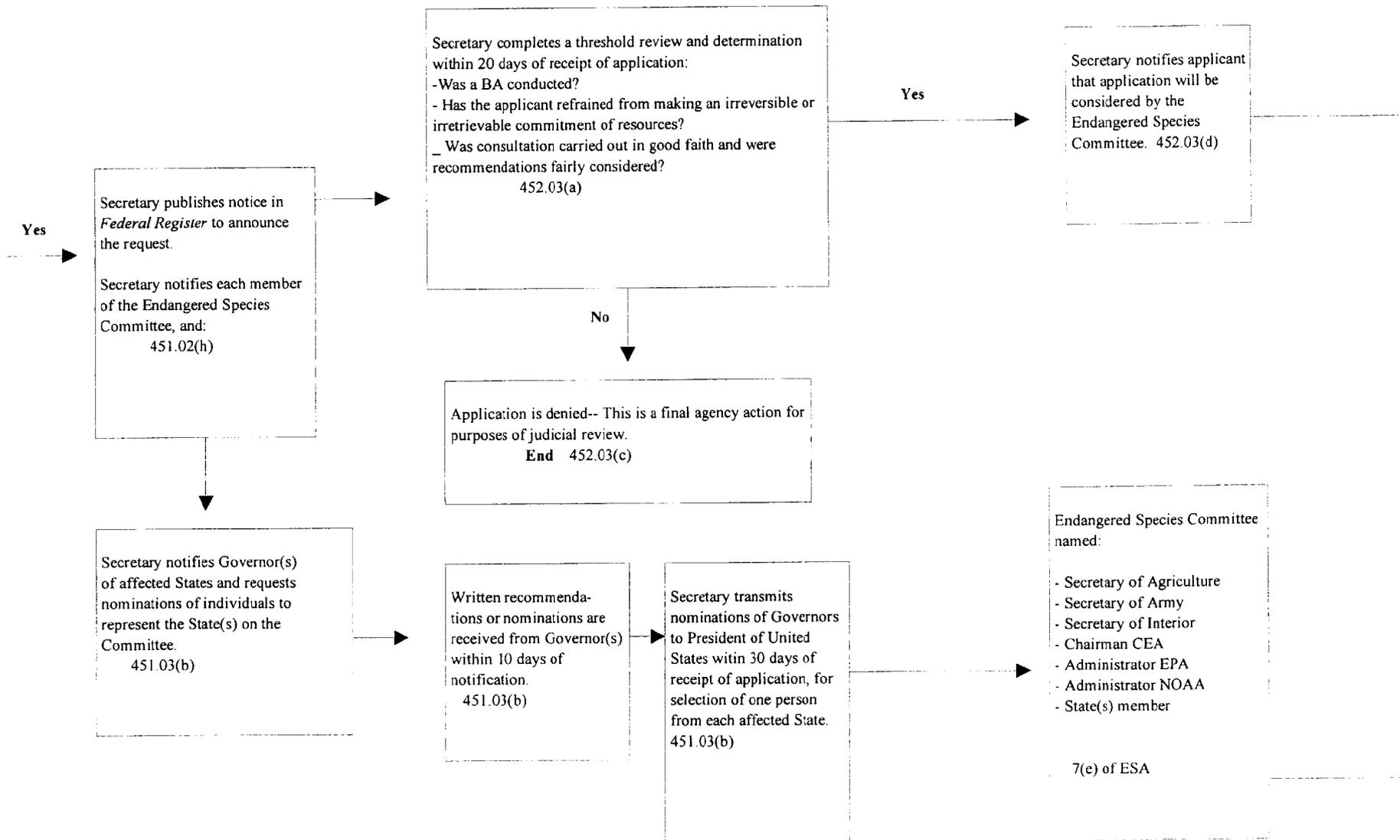
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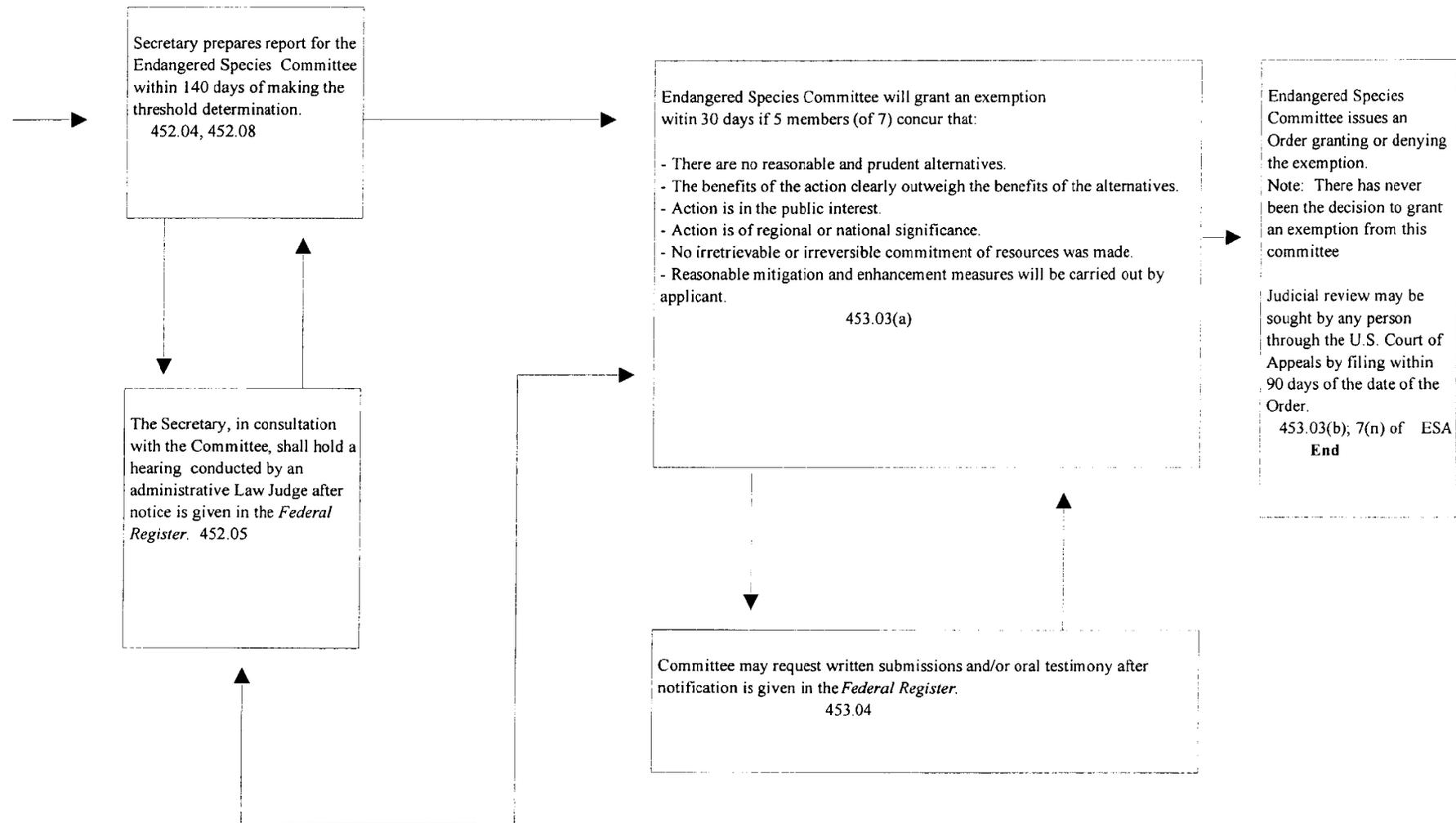
ES-1 of 6



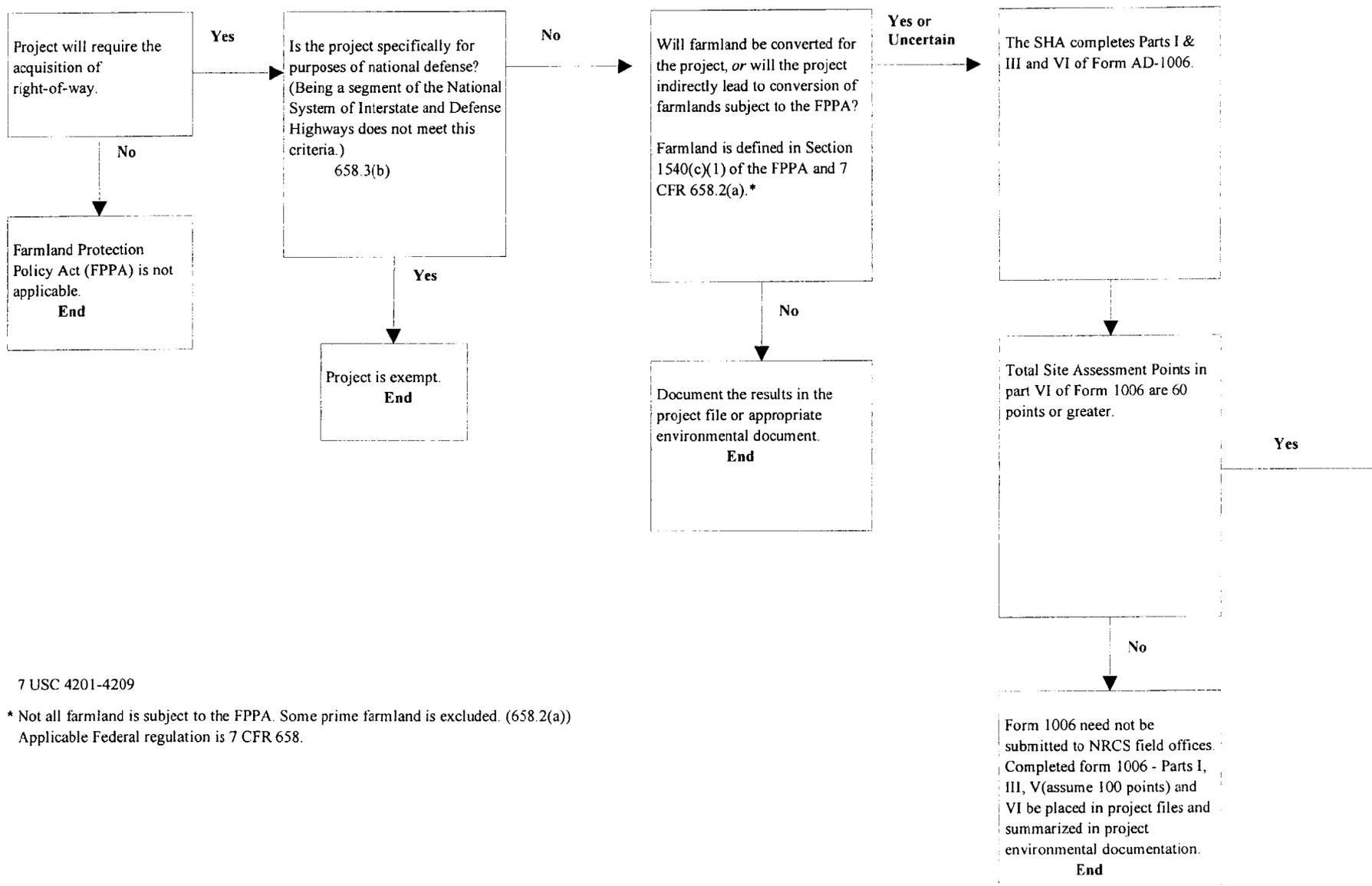






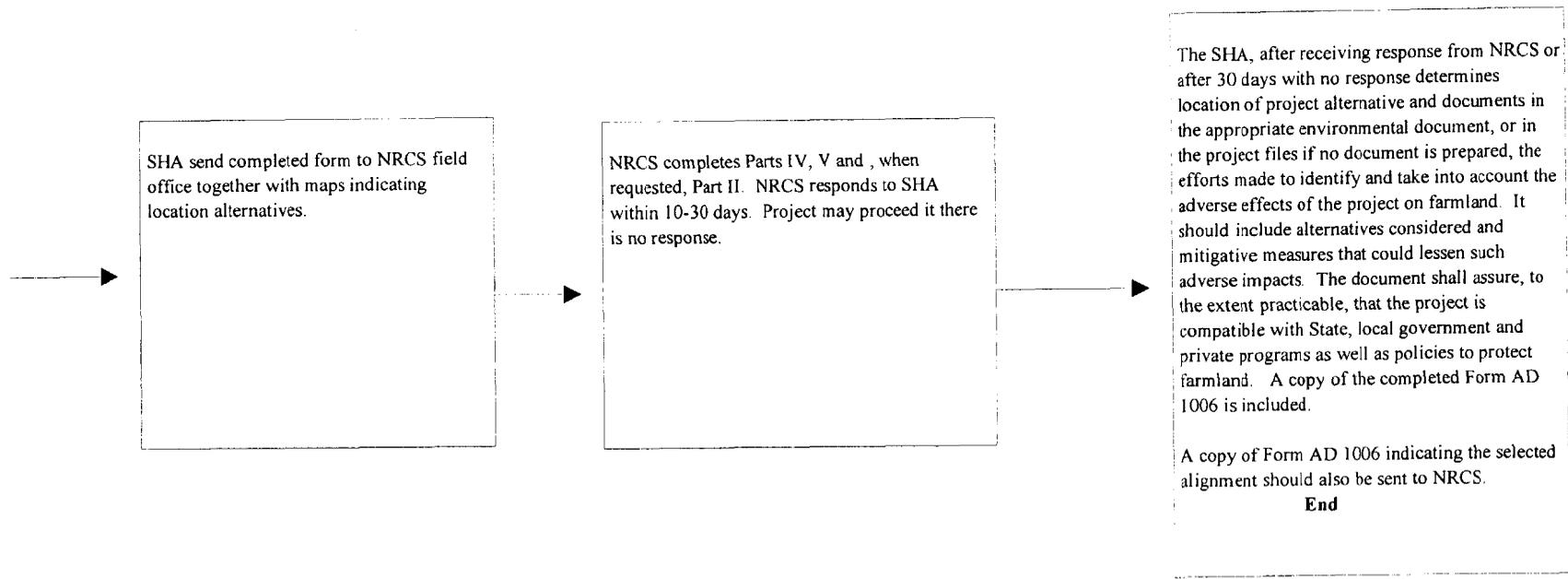


## Farmland Protection



7 USC 4201-4209

\* Not all farmland is subject to the FPPA. Some prime farmland is excluded. (658.2(a))  
 Applicable Federal regulation is 7 CFR 658.



SHA send completed form to NRCS field office together with maps indicating location alternatives.

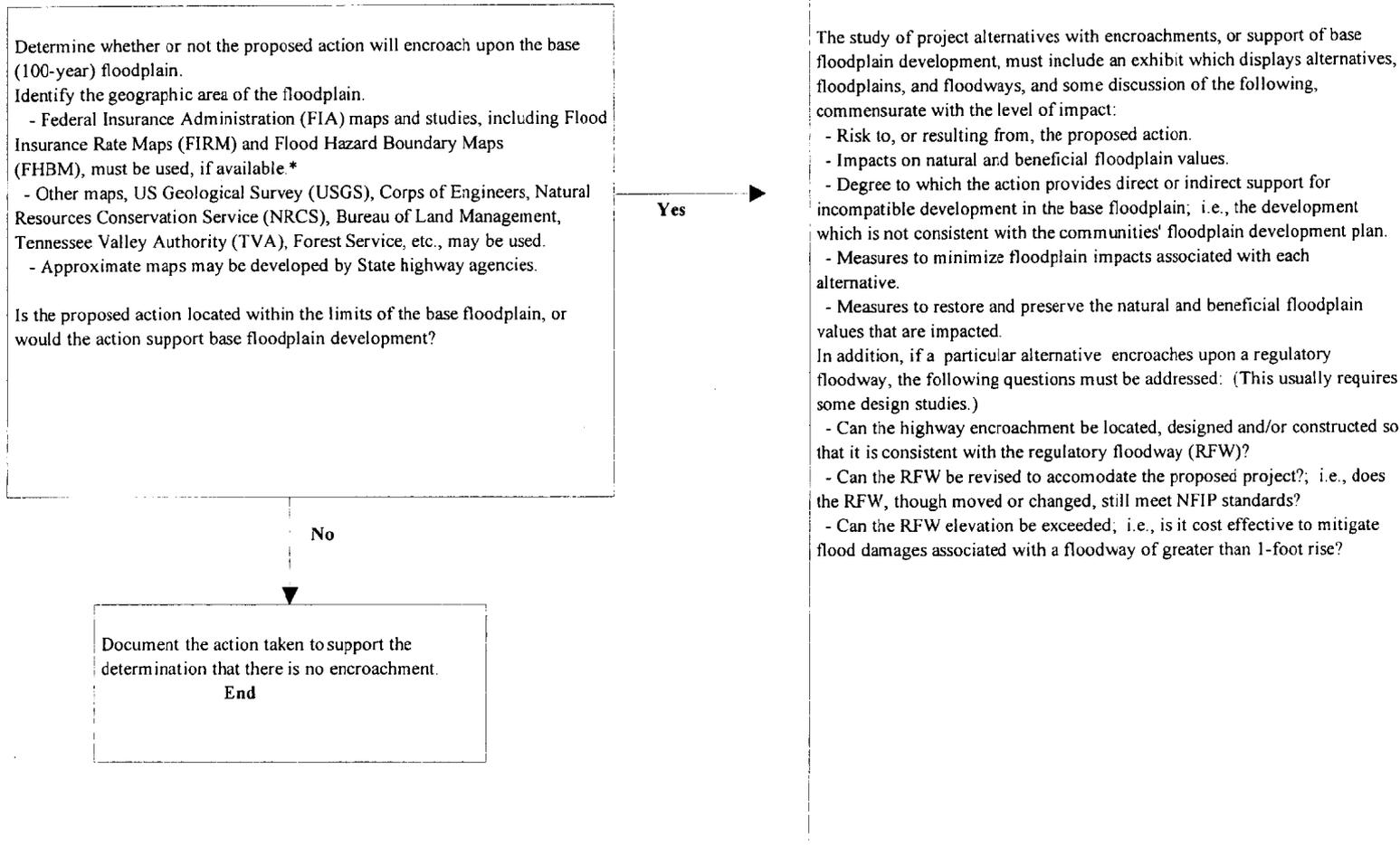
NRCS completes Parts IV, V and , when requested, Part II. NRCS responds to SHA within 10-30 days. Project may proceed if there is no response.

The SHA, after receiving response from NRCS or after 30 days with no response determines location of project alternative and documents in the appropriate environmental document, or in the project files if no document is prepared, the efforts made to identify and take into account the adverse effects of the project on farmland. It should include alternatives considered and mitigative measures that could lessen such adverse impacts. The document shall assure, to the extent practicable, that the project is compatible with State, local government and private programs as well as policies to protect farmland. A copy of the completed Form AD 1006 is included.

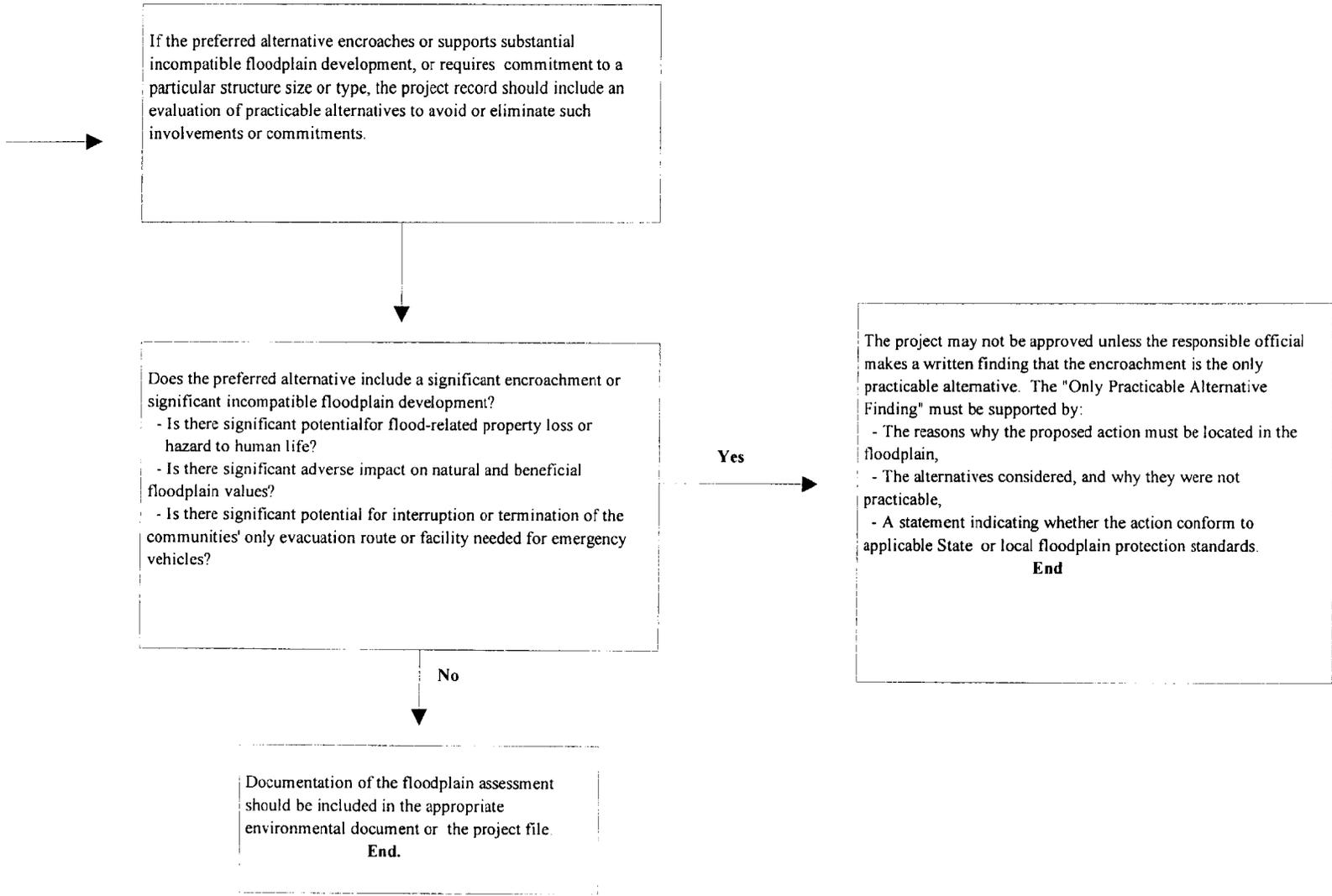
A copy of Form AD 1006 indicating the selected alignment should also be sent to NRCS.

**End**

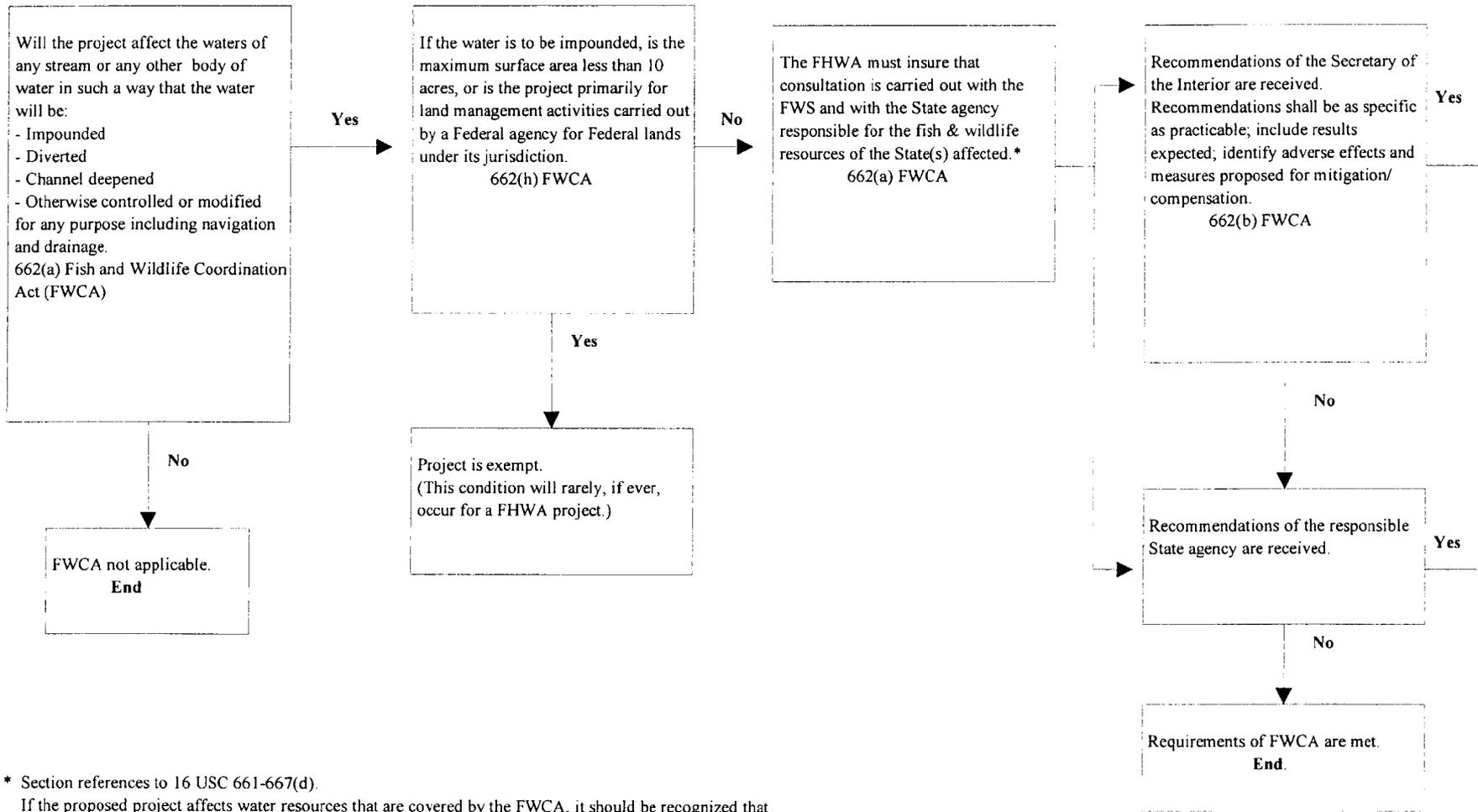
## Floodplains



\* If the project is not in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identified flood hazard area, FIA maps will not be available and other sources should be used.

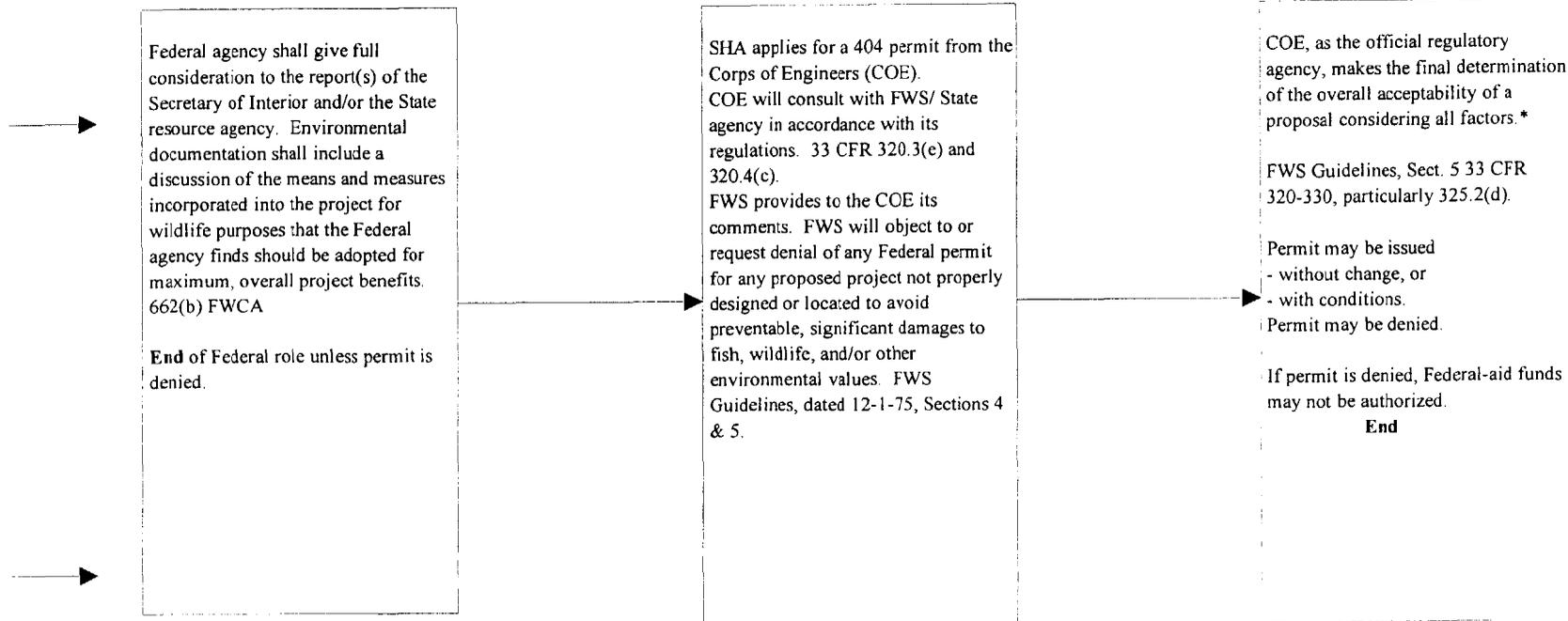


## Fish and Wildlife Coordination



\* Section references to 16 USC 661-667(d).

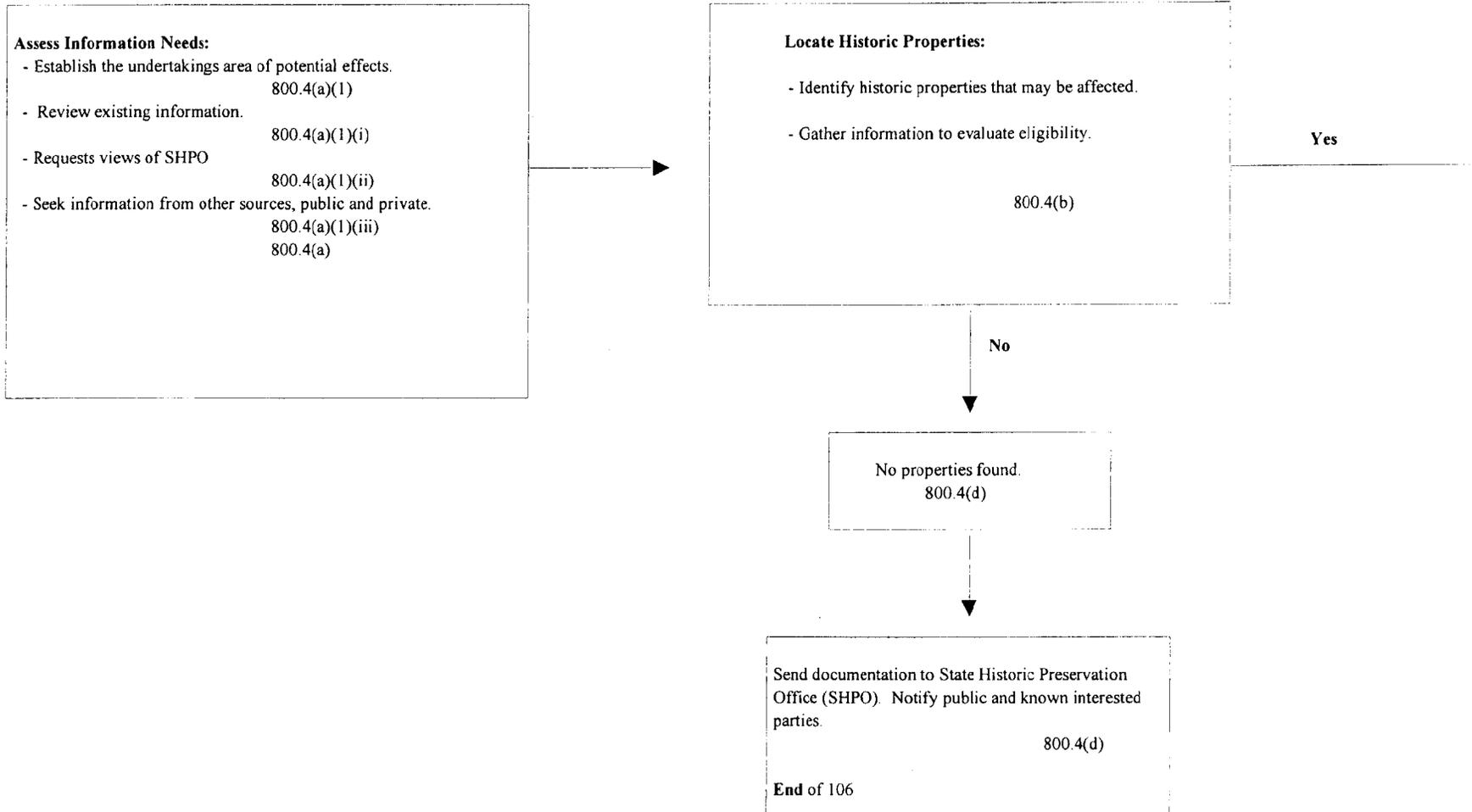
If the proposed project affects water resources that are covered by the FWCA, it should be recognized that a 404 permit will also be required. If the recommendations of the FWS/State agency can be accommodated and a mitigation commitment made in the environmental document, then the re-examination of FWCA issues at the 404 permit stage should be routine unless project or policy change has occurred. If resolution cannot be obtained during the environmental process, then the objection of the FWS/State agency can be expected at permit time.



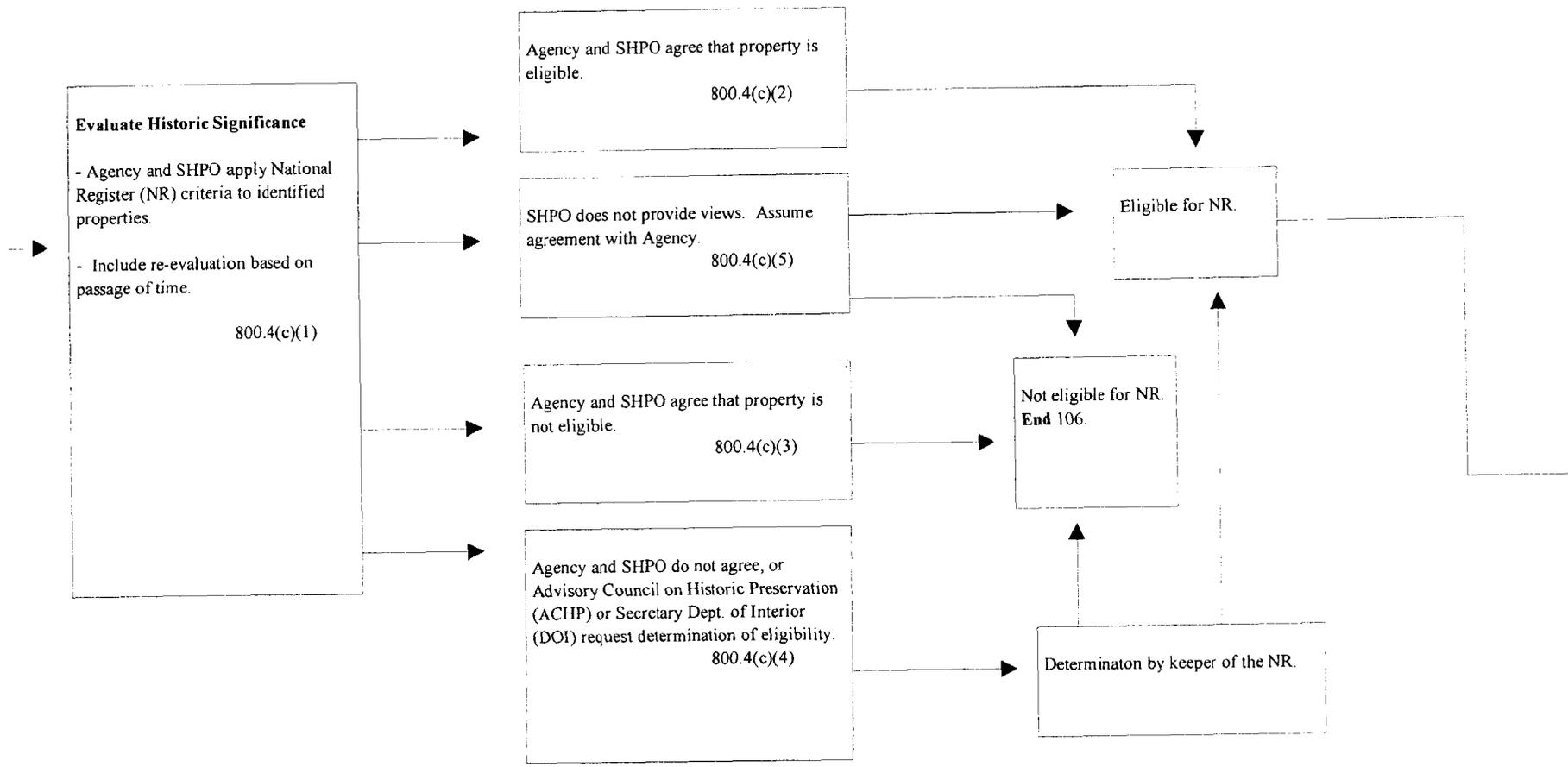
\*The EPA may review the permit and if necessary, veto it in accordance with Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act.

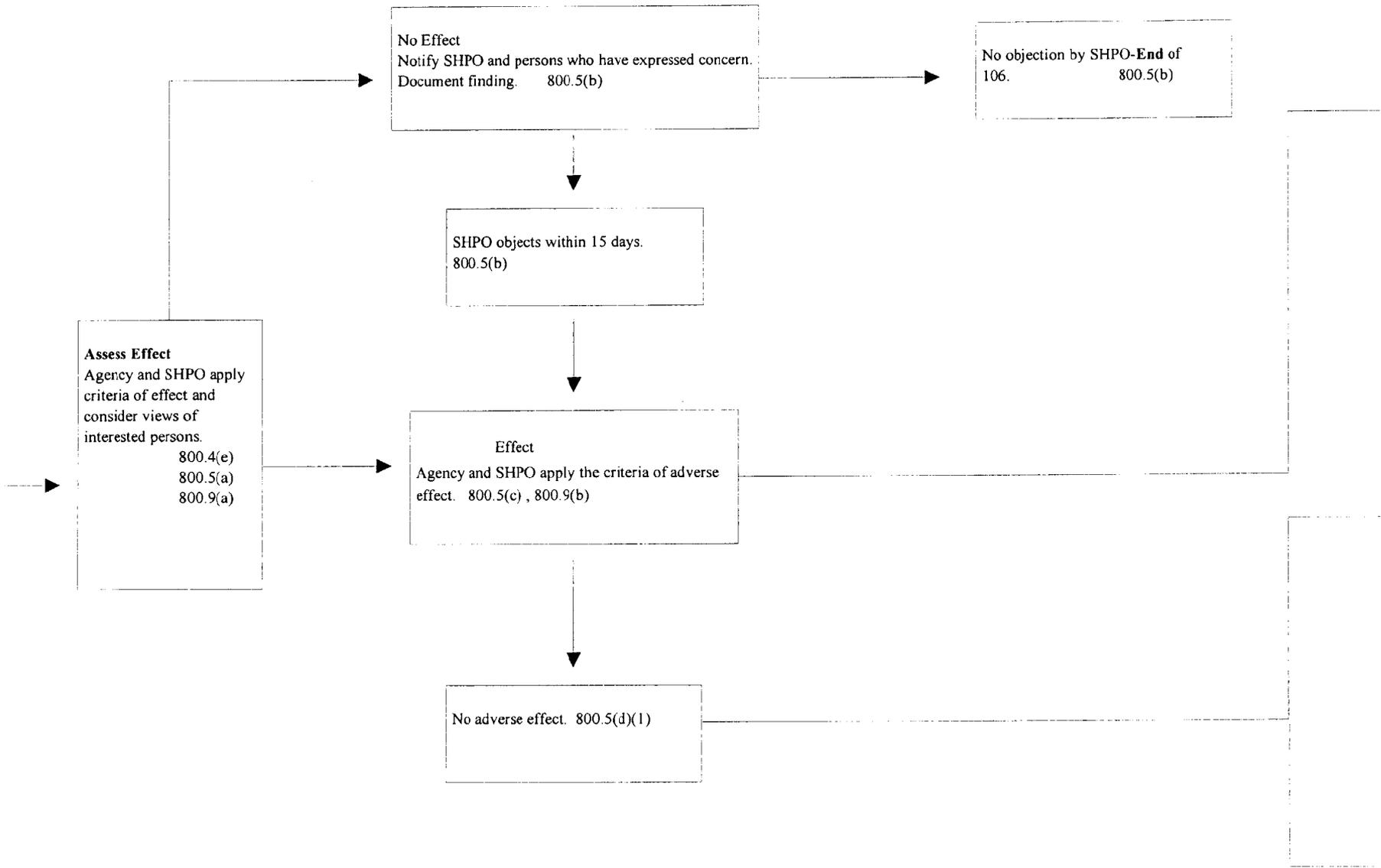
# Historic Preservation

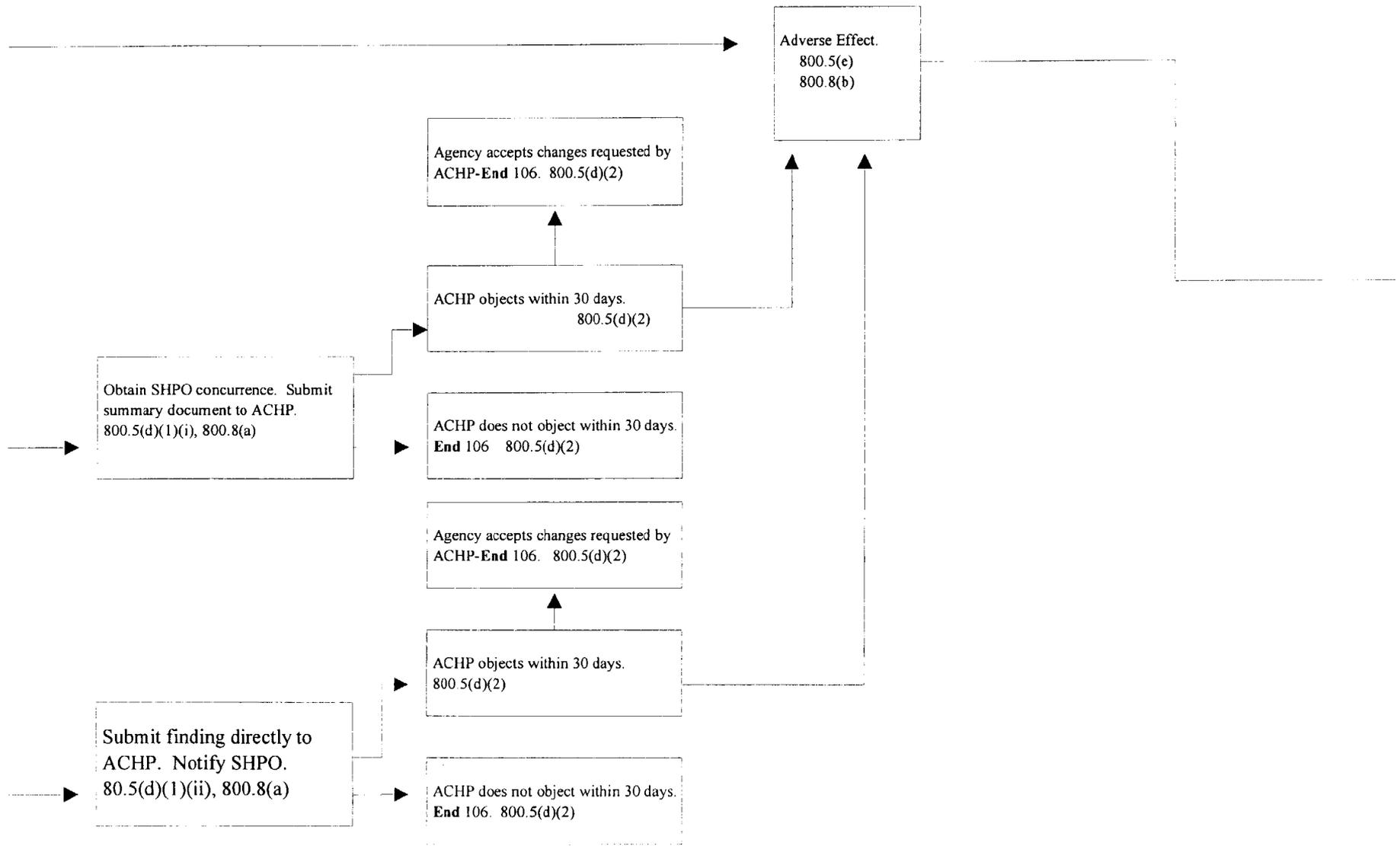
(Sect. 106 of National Historic Preservation Act)\*

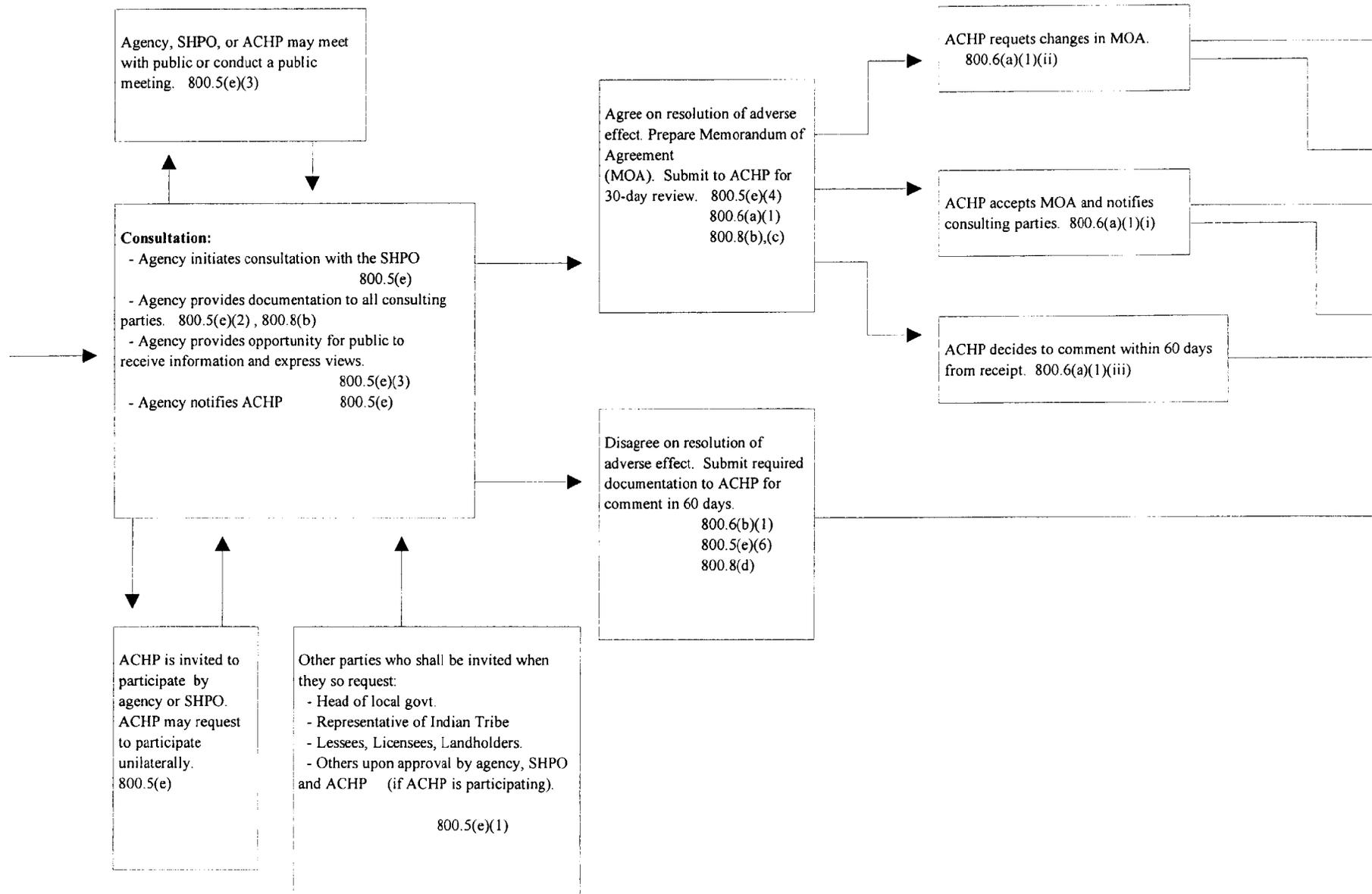


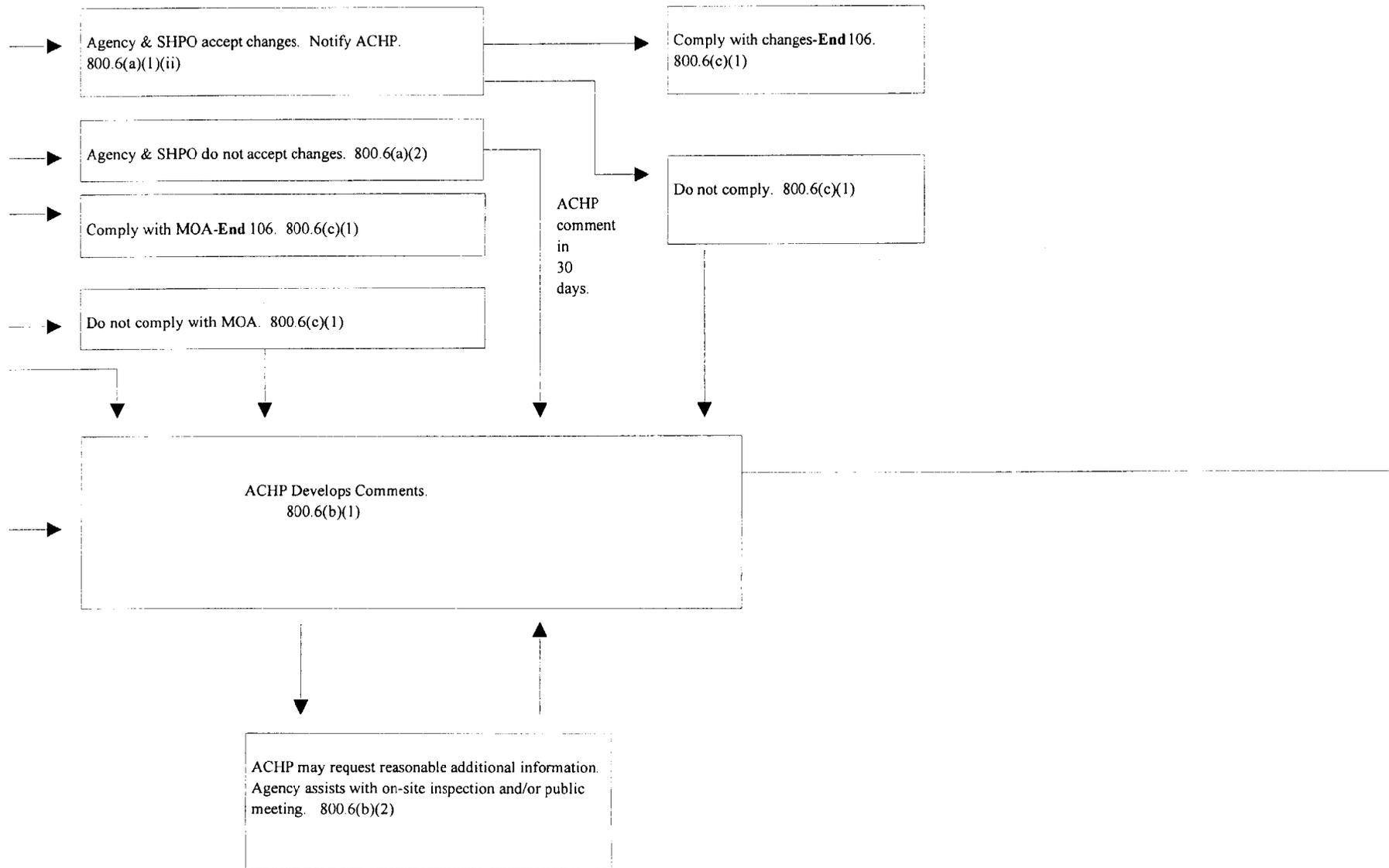
\* Applicable Federal regulation is 36 CFR 800.

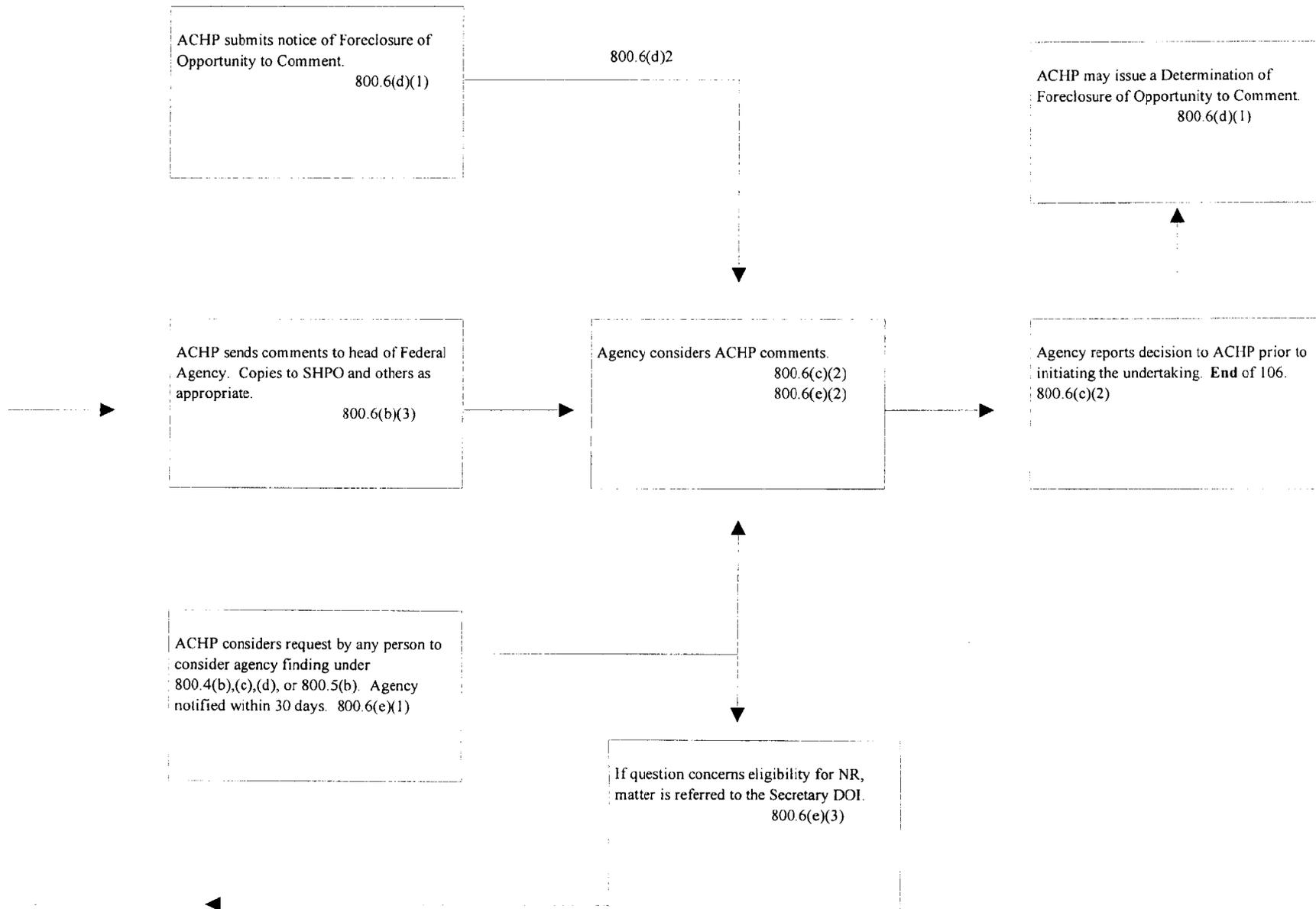




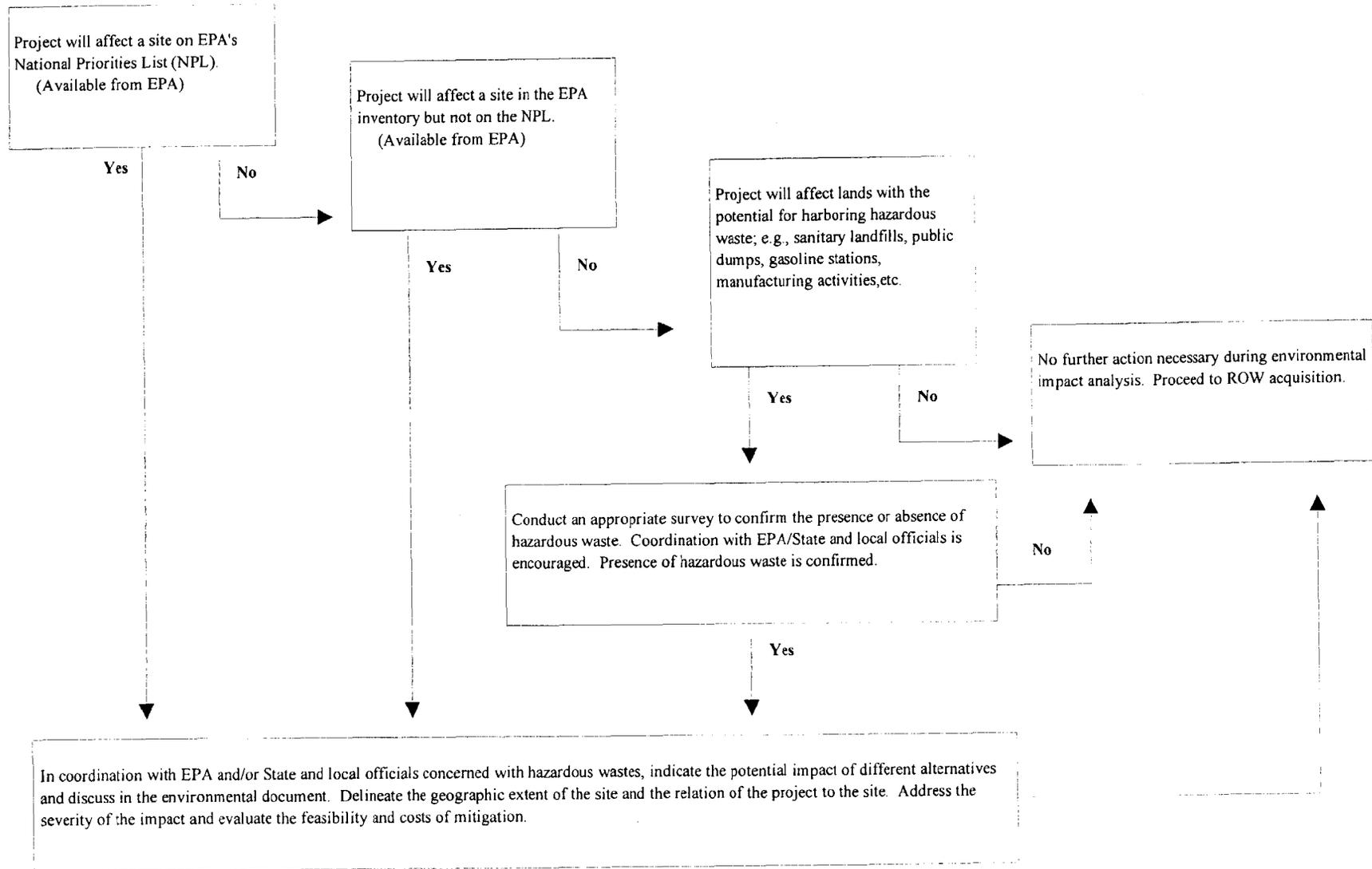


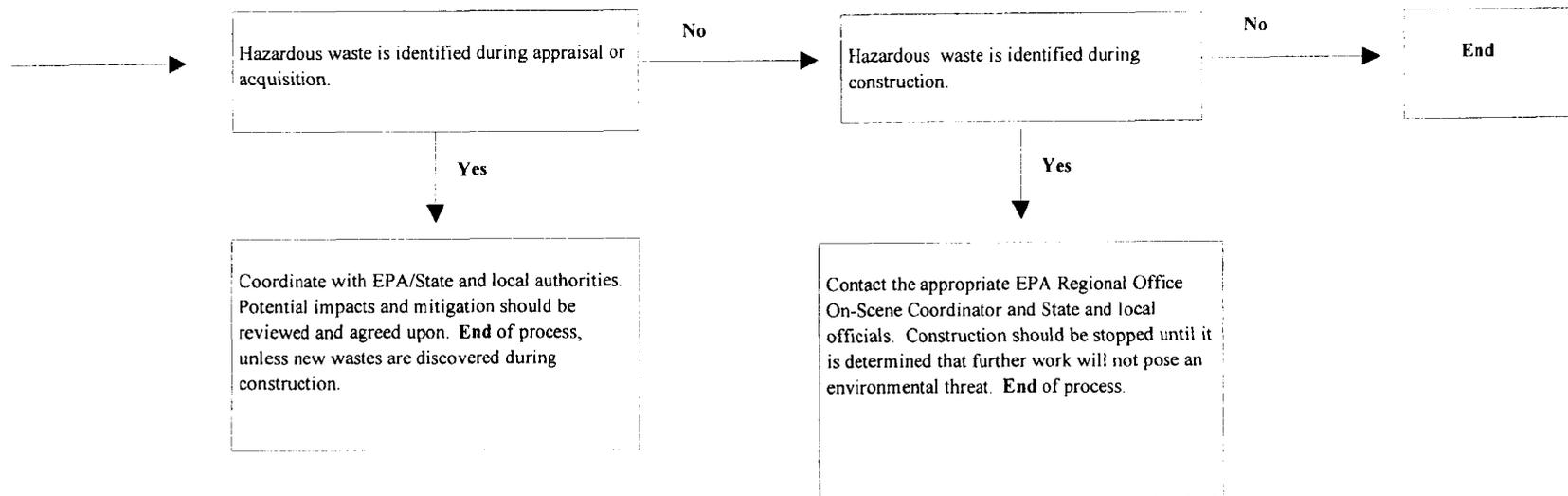




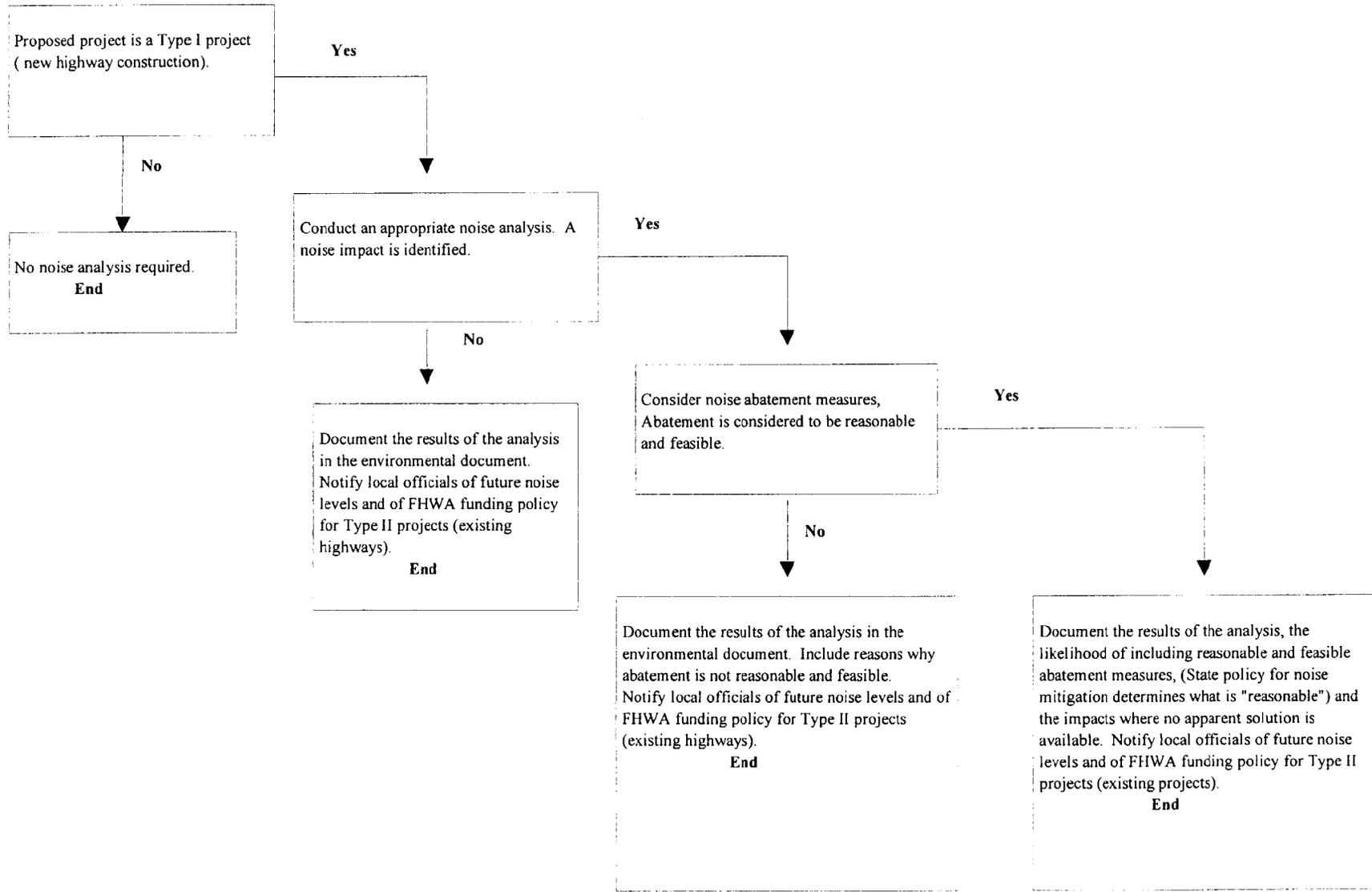


## Hazardous Waste

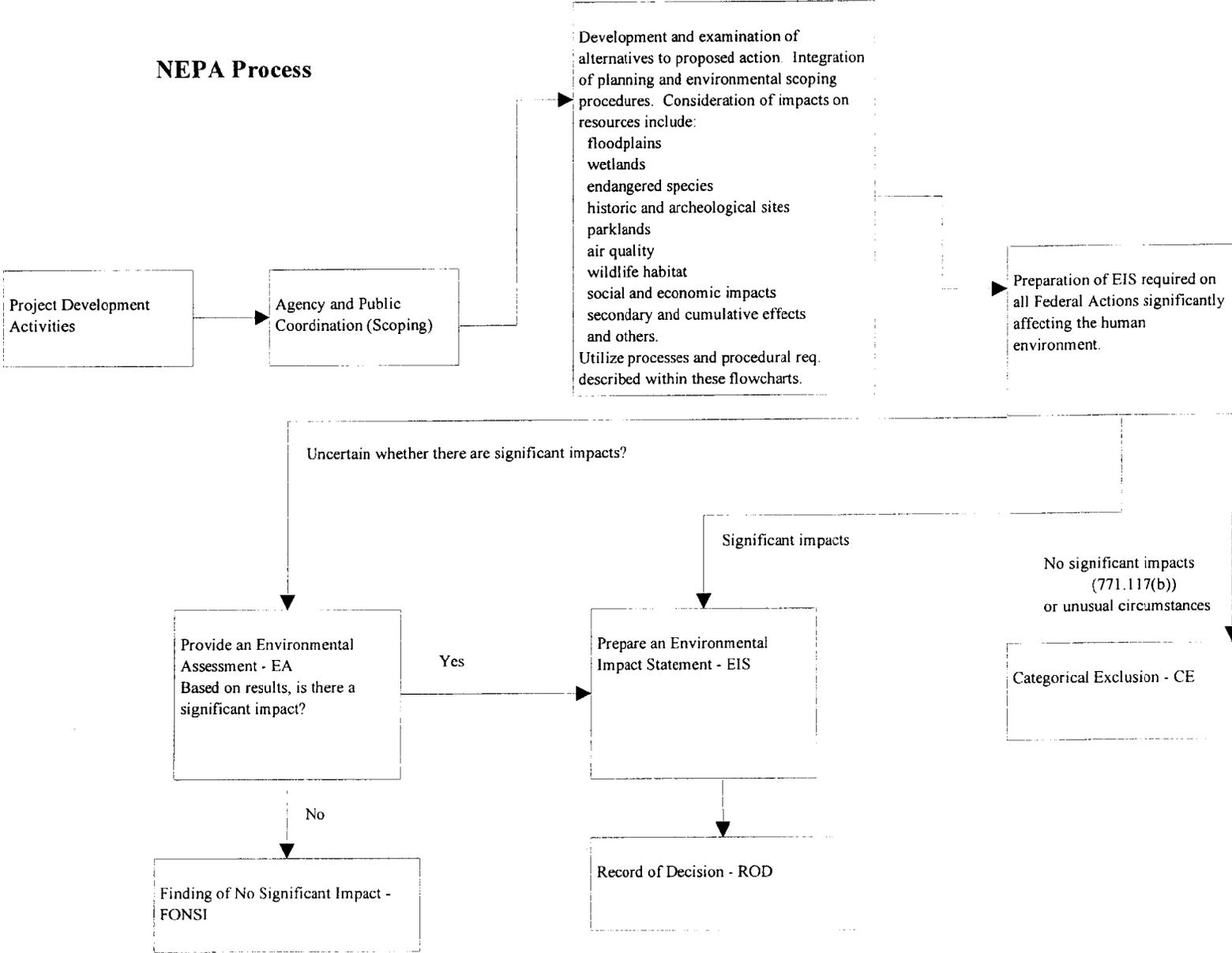




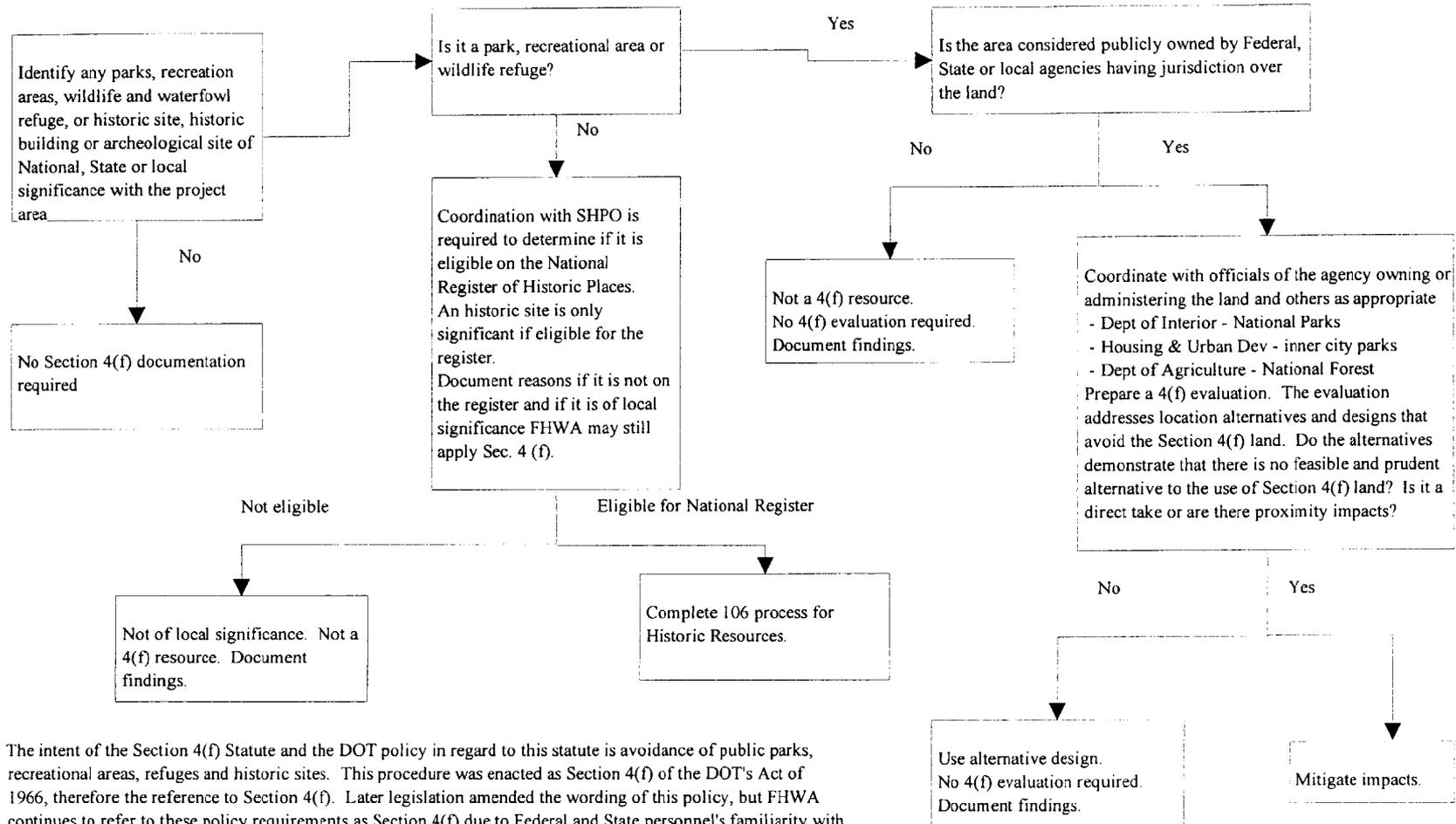
## Highway Traffic Noise



**NEPA Process**

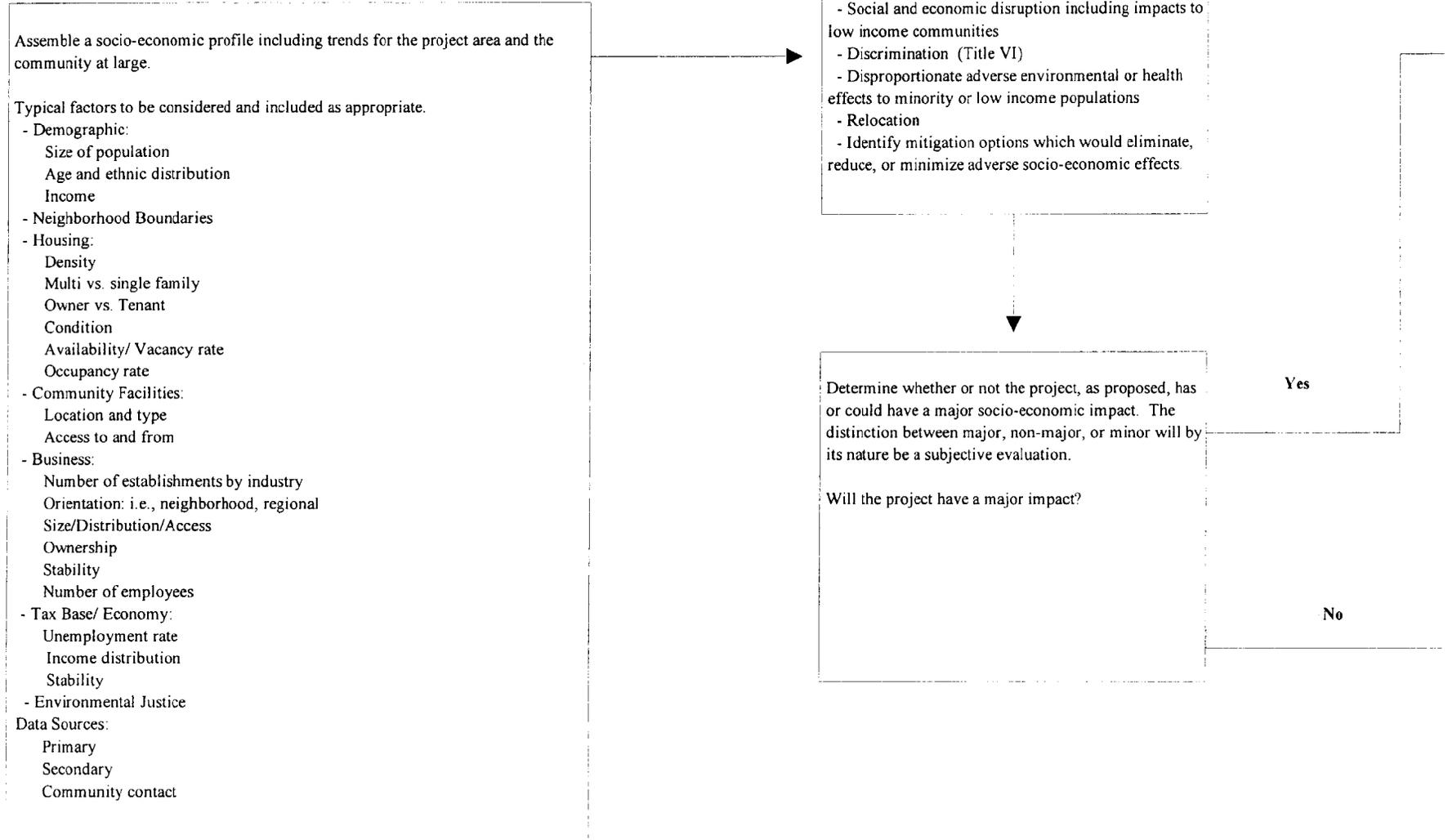


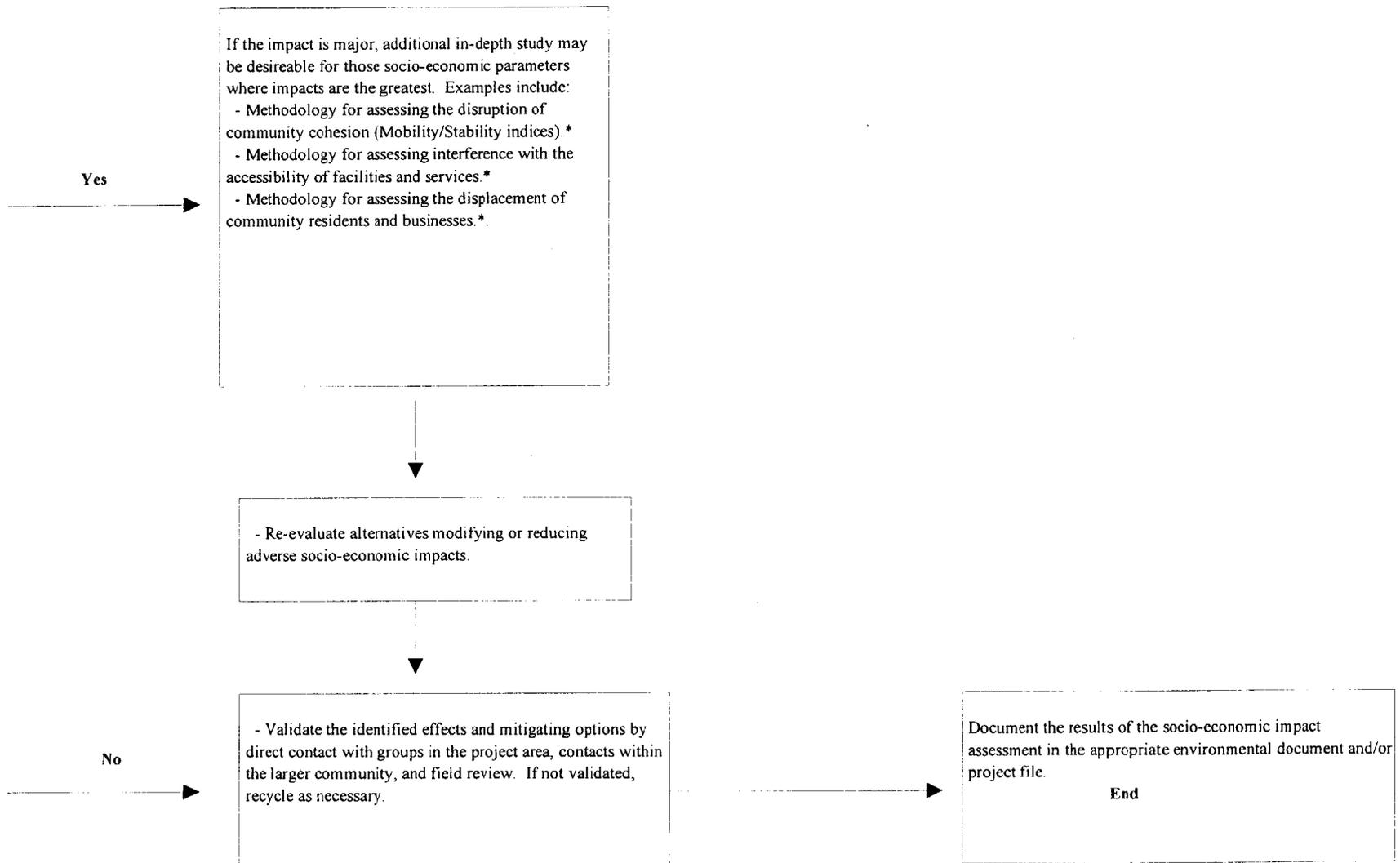
## Section 4(f) Evaluation Process\*



\*Note: The intent of the Section 4(f) Statute and the DOT policy in regard to this statute is avoidance of public parks, recreational areas, refuges and historic sites. This procedure was enacted as Section 4(f) of the DOT's Act of 1966, therefore the reference to Section 4(f). Later legislation amended the wording of this policy, but FHWA continues to refer to these policy requirements as Section 4(f) due to Federal and State personnel's familiarity with this statute.

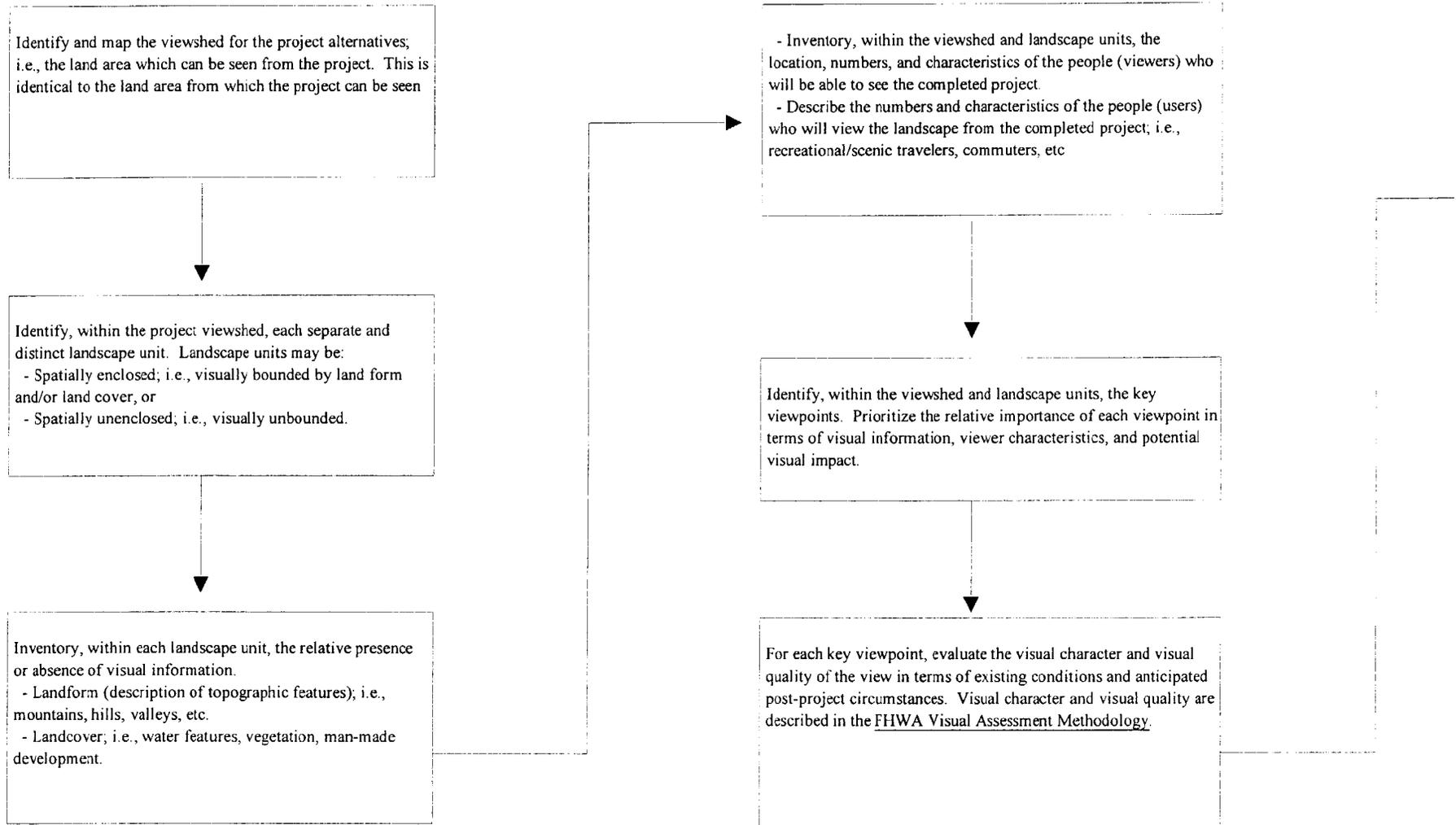
## Socio-Economic Impact





\* See Chapter 5 in "Social Considerations in Highway Project Development".

## Visual Impact



Where the visual impact analysis indicates that post-project impact will reduce visual quality, mitigation measures should be evaluated and incorporated into the project where feasible and practicable.

Common mitigation measures include:

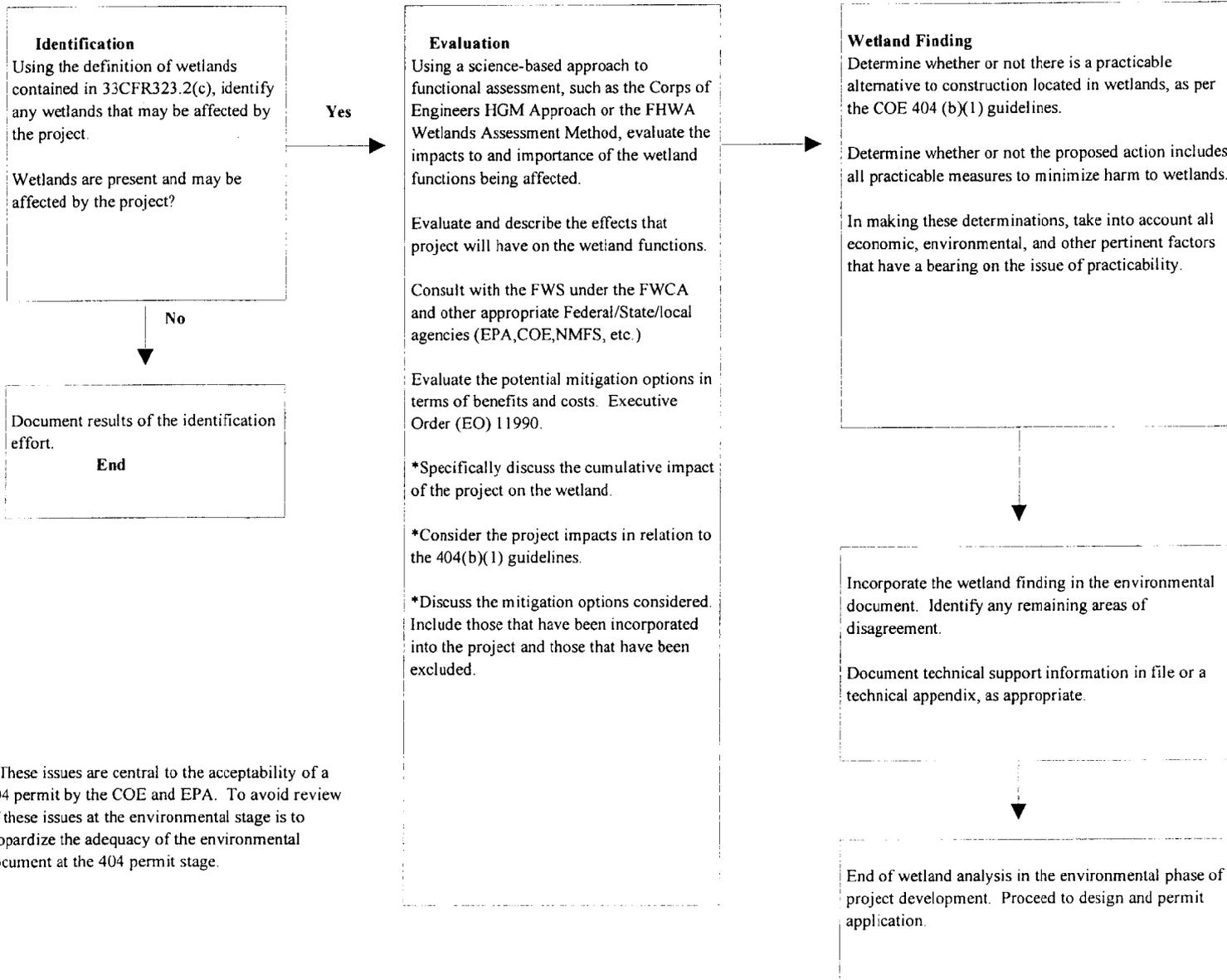
- Changes in horizontal and vertical alignment.
- Landscape design; e.g., manipulation of earthwork, plant material and man-made features, screening, signing, lighting, walls, structures, thinning and clearing of existing vegetation, preservation of existing vegetation, or planting of new vegetation, etc.
- Maintenance Practices; e.g., mowing limits, mowing frequency, vegetation control, litter pickup.

A summary of the analysis completed should be placed in the file and/or in the appropriate environmental document.

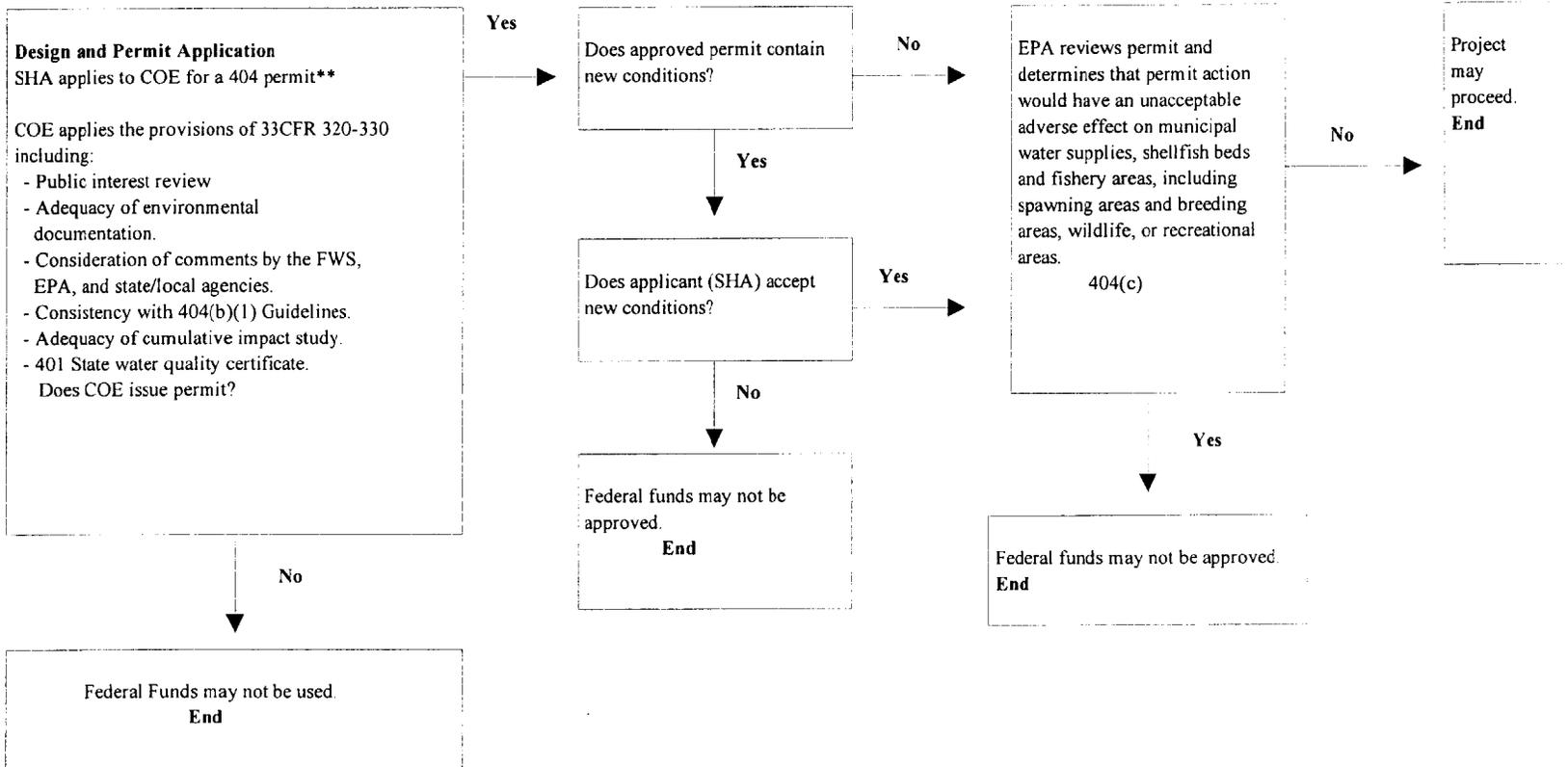
Accepted mitigation to reduce adverse visual impact is incorporated into project plans and specification and is implemented during construction.

**End**

## Wetlands

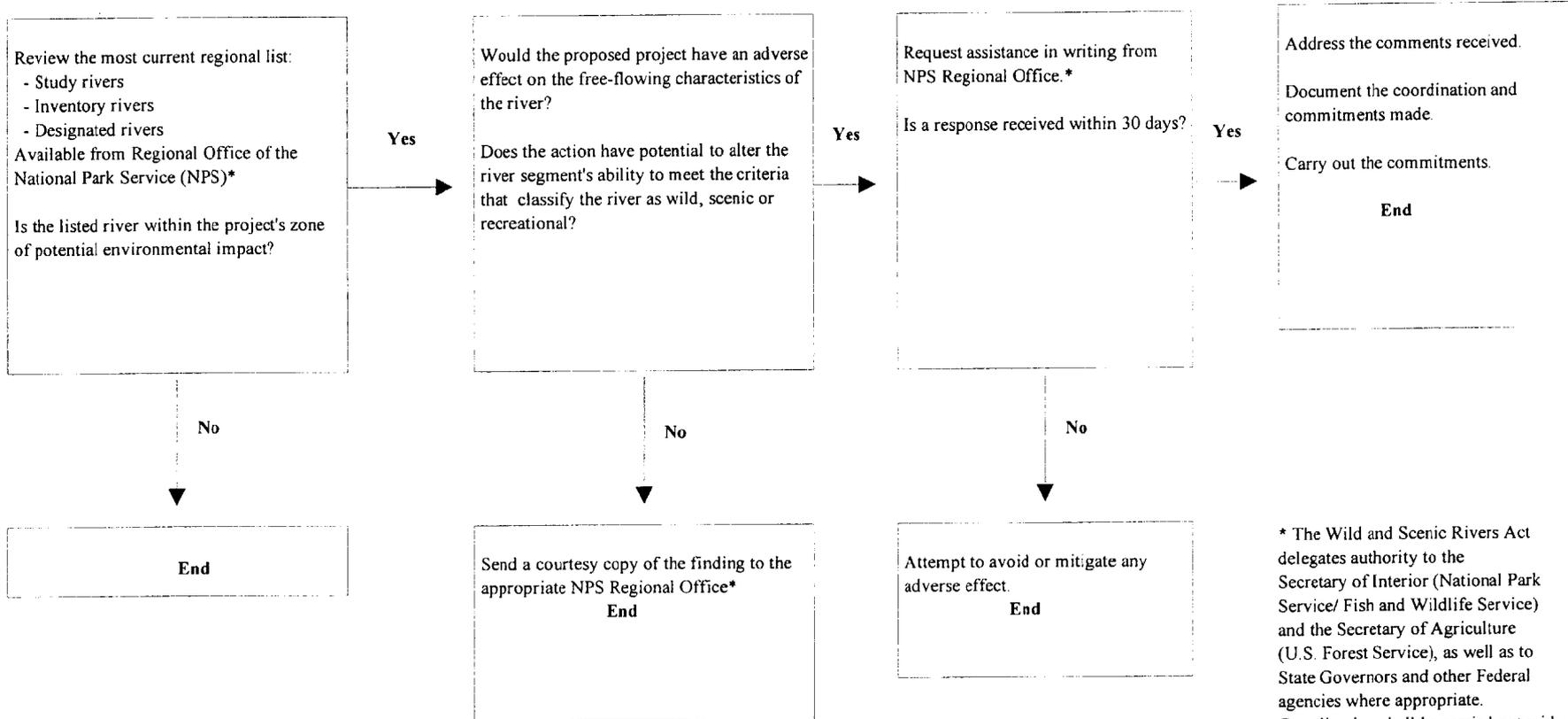


\* These issues are central to the acceptability of a 404 permit by the COE and EPA. To avoid review of these issues at the environmental stage is to jeopardize the adequacy of the environmental document at the 404 permit stage.



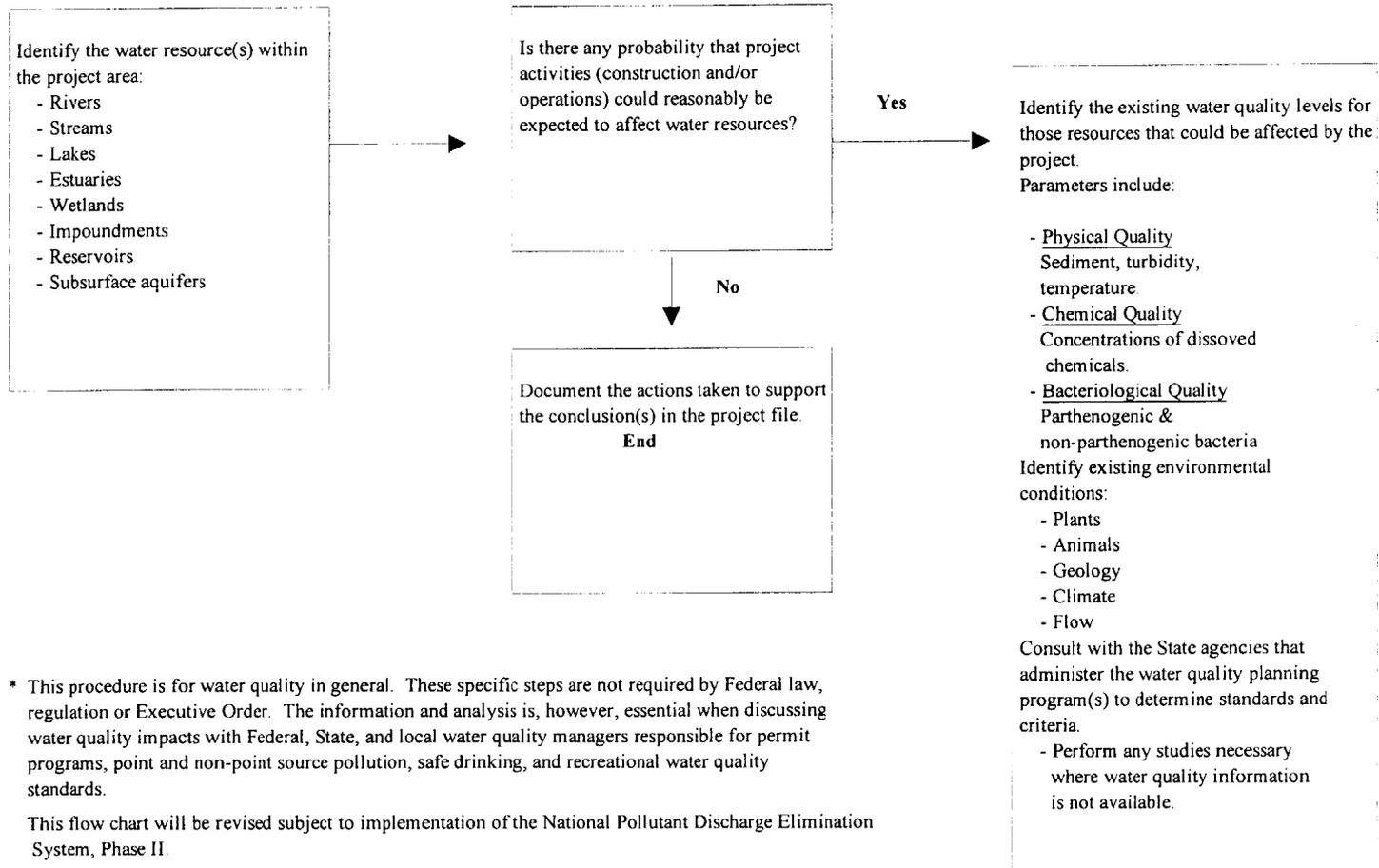
\*\* When issues remain unresolved at the conclusion of the environmental phase of project development, they will probably be raised again when the permit is applied for.

## Wild and Scenic Rivers



\* The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act delegates authority to the Secretary of Interior (National Park Service/ Fish and Wildlife Service) and the Secretary of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service), as well as to State Governors and other Federal agencies where appropriate. Coordination shall be carried out with the agency having management or program responsibility for the particular river.

## Water Quality\*



\* This procedure is for water quality in general. These specific steps are not required by Federal law, regulation or Executive Order. The information and analysis is, however, essential when discussing water quality impacts with Federal, State, and local water quality managers responsible for permit programs, point and non-point source pollution, safe drinking, and recreational water quality standards.

This flow chart will be revised subject to implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Phase II.

