

July 19, 1995

**PENNSYLVANIA INTERAGENCY DOCUMENT (PID)
FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to formalize the commitment among several state and federal agencies to work in a partnering process to develop environmentally responsible transportation projects.

BACKGROUND

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 is landmark legislation. It sets new directions for the Nation's highway and transit program in a post-interstate highway era. The Act has as a policy the development of a transportation system that is economically efficient and environmentally sound.

In June of 1992, five federal agencies signed the Interagency Consensus Agreement on integrating the NEPA and Section 404 processes for transportation projects. The agreement and associated implementation guide, set forth a process which provides for formal concurrence at key stages of project development and sufficient level of detail to address NEPA and 404 in one document.

In August of 1993, the PA Department of Transportation issued Publication 278, the Environmental Impact Statement Handbook, which describes the process that the Department employs to develop EIS projects, including agency and public coordination.

Since 1989, the Department of Transportation has held regular Agency Coordination Meetings (ACM) to facilitate agency involvement and coordinate environmental issues on major transportation projects.

With these measures in place, all the agencies involved decided that a formal state interagency document would be appropriate.

COMMITMENTS

In order to further the goals initiated by ISTEA, implement the Integrated NEPA/404 Process, further the Agencies' stated missions, and aid in the development of more environmentally sensitive transportation projects, this interagency document has been authored by the following agencies:

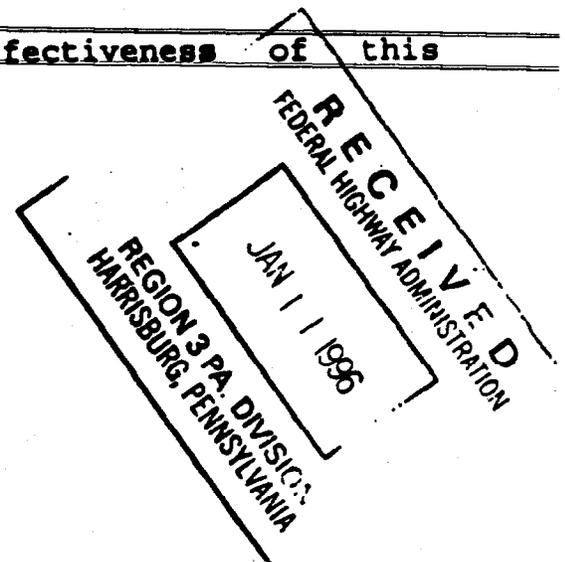
- PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
- PA Turnpike Commission (PTC)

July 19, 1995

- PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- PA Department of Agriculture (DOA)
- PA Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)
- PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC)
- PA Game Commission (PGC)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

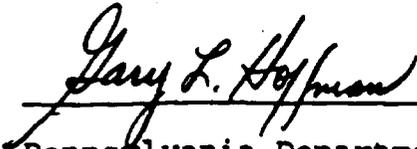
The Agencies commit to support the following actions to ensure that the spirit of interagency cooperation is maintained:

1. Solve transportation problems in an environmentally sensitive manner by fully involving federal and state transportation, resource, and regulatory agencies.
2. Develop joint agency guidance through interagency teams on topics such as incorporating environmental issues early in transportation planning, acceptable levels of environmental data for studies, and guidelines for handling projects which began prior to this document.
3. Foster environmental protection earlier in the planning process through regional conferences, seminars, workshops, and training.
4. Develop a process to resolve conflicts.
5. Commit resources where necessary and feasible to ensure successful implementation of this document.
6. Jointly develop and follow standard operating procedures to address transportation and environmental issues.
7. Establish processes to insure informed decisions on a timely basis to maintain project development schedules, and cost-effective use of resources, while appropriately considering environmental issues.
- ~~8. Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of this interagency document.~~



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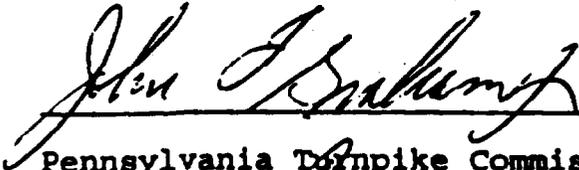
The undersigned commit themselves to implement the concepts and principles outlined above to the fullest extent possible:



Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

8/7/95

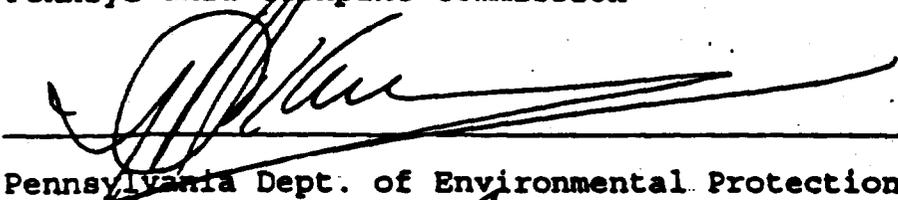
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Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

8/17/95

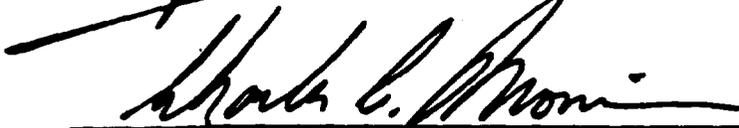
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Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

11/6/95

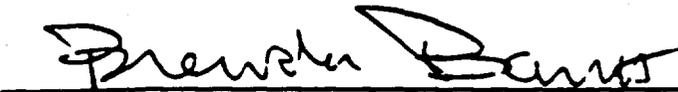
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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

11-20-95

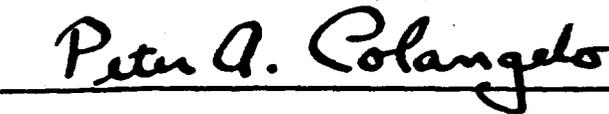
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Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

8/9/95

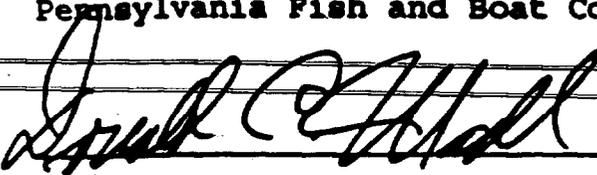
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Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

8/22/95

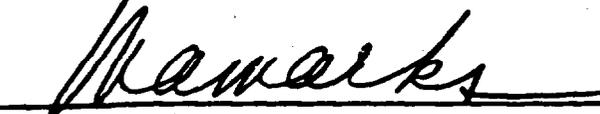
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Pennsylvania Game Commission

8/19/95

Date



Federal Highway Administration

8/8/95

Date

July 19, 1995

John R. Pappas
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

11/10/95
Date

[Signature]
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Philadelphia

10/24/95
Date

[Signature]
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Baltimore

10/31/95
Date

E. Jay Bringer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Pittsburgh

9-13-95
Date

Charles J. Kelly
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

9-11-95
Date

REC'D
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
JAN 11 1996
REGION 3 PA. DIVISION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA