

Format Recommendations for Environmental Assessments

EA - Checklist & Narrative	EA - Narrative Only (Shipley Style)	EIS - Narrative Only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For routine Department actions with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only limited (minor) resource impacts; ○ No significant impacts expected; and ○ No public controversy anticipated. • A definition of Significance of Impacts can be found in MEPA Model Rule IV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For routine Department actions that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Generate public controversy; and/or ○ Have potentially significant impacts that can be mitigated. • This format walks the public through the entire decision making process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For new or unusual Department actions that are anticipated to have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significant impacts that cannot be mitigated; ○ Generated public controversy; ○ Set a precedent; and/or ○ In conflict with local, state, or federal laws, or formal plans. • This format would need to meet all statutory requirements of MEPA Model Rules VIII - XVIII.

Note: The checklist format could be used if an action has a limited number of significant mitigated impacts if the document includes the following fully discussed components:

- Definition of ‘significance’ as it was used in the document to determine the level of influence each alternative would have on a resource.
- Analysis of each alternative’s impacts to resources.
- Clear statement of the objective(s) the Department wants to obtain by the action.
- The discussion of the mitigation process must include: 1) a determination all of the impacts of the proposed action have been accurately identified, 2) the impacts will be mitigated below the level of significance, and 3) no significant impacts are likely to occur. See MEPA Model Rule II 14(a-d) for a legal definition of “Mitigation”.

All EAs ***MUST*** meet the statutory requirements as defined in the following agency Administrative Rule:

Agriculture:	4.2.315	DNRC:	36.2.524
DEQ:	17.4.608	MDT:	18.2.238
FWP:	12.2.431		