
Appendix EE. Environmental Resources Documentation for the Preferred Alternative

EE.1 VOLUME 1, APPENDIX EE

Appendix EE provides the data supporting the resource analysis in Volume 1, Chapter 7. Each section of the appendix contains the data supporting the analysis of the Existing NEC and Hartford/Springfield Line, and the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative representative routes and construction characteristics are the basis for the analysis in the NEC FUTURE Tier 1 EIS. They illustrate necessary improvements to achieve the Preferred Alternative service and performance objectives. As part of the Tier 1 process, the FRA has determined the necessity for new segments in particular geographic sections of the NEC in order to meet the purpose and need, and has identified a representative route for each potential new segment. The FRA or another federal agency providing funding for a particular project will evaluate specific locations for new segments as part of the Tier 2 project studies, prior to making any decision regarding new segment locations.

The Federal Railroad Administration has compiled the data for individual resources at a county level. County-level data are also typically aggregated to a higher level such as state or specific resource classification (e.g., developed land cover or National Historic Landmarks within cultural resources). The data are presented in columns for the Existing NEC and Hartford/Springfield Line, and the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative includes improvements and modifications to the Existing NEC and Hartford/Springfield Line, so the Existing NEC and Hartford/Springfield Line routing is included in the calculation of resource data.

Environmental features analyzed in Chapter 7 are presented in Appendix AA, Mapping Atlas of the Preferred Alternative. The atlas highlights areas where new infrastructure is proposed for the Preferred Alternative that coincides with mapped resources (Part 1). It also provides a separate map series that highlights the Representative Route construction types used for analytical purposes (Part 2).

EE.2 VOLUME 2, APPENDIX E

Volume 2, Appendix E, provides analysis methods and data supporting the analysis of the Tier 1 Draft EIS Action Alternatives. It is organized by resource and includes the following documents:

- ▶ Resource Effects-Assessment Methodology
- ▶ Application of Effects-Assessment Methodology
- ▶ Resource Data Compiled by Alternative, then by State and County for the Action Alternatives

The Volume 2, Appendix E.01, provides a description of what each of these documents contain.

The Resource Effects-Assessment Methodology and Application of Effects-Assessment Methodology documents have not changed since the publication of the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact

Statement (Tier 1 Draft EIS). Resource data have been modified as needed. Errata sheets have been developed for the following resources to address data modifications: Agricultural Lands (Prime Farmland and Prime Timberland), Ecological Resources, Geologic Resources, Cultural Resources and Historic Properties, and Environmental Justice. There were no data modifications to the remaining resources.