
From: Ossi, Joseph (FTA)
To: Harr, Tricia (FTA); Cole, Faith (FTA); Quagliata, Antoinette (FTA); Zelasko, Elizabeth (FTA); Martin, Andrea (FTA); Blum, Megan (FTA); Grasty, Katie (FTA)
Sent: 5/21/2010 11:27:47 AM
Subject: RE: Value Engineering

VE = value engineering. It is a process required by FTA (I don't remember what FTA Circular addresses this requirement), where engineers who specialize in cost savings study the preliminary design plans and propose changes that would save money. It is done near the end of PE and may be before or after the completion of NEPA.

Our TPE-30 position has always been that the VE process must be constrained by the NEPA process. In other words, the value engineers should be told that they cannot propose a cost-saving change of any design to which we committed during the NEPA process. We have seen only limited success in advocating this position. For example, in one project's NEPA review we promised a neighborhood and the SHPO that an LRT flyover of a highway to avoid an at-grade crossing would be lined with stone to fit in with surrounding buildings and would not be bare concrete. The VE process gave us bare concrete.

The grantee is not required to accept the changes proposed by the VE process if they have good reasons not to. But if they do accept the change, and it conflicts with presentations or commitments made during the NEPA review, then we would have to do some level of supplemental NEPA review.

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From: Harr, Tricia (FTA)
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 3:29 PM
To: Bausch, Carl (FTA)
Cc: Ossi, Joseph (FTA)
Subject: Honolulu conf call

I hung up around 3:25 during the VE/PE discussion (? I couldn't distinguish). I'm out Monday and Tuesday, so I would only be available Wed – Thursday (My RDO is Memorial Day, so I was planning on moving it to Friday; if need be, I can move it to Tuesday).

Tricia