1. This Transmits the new HUD Form-4128, "Environmental Assessment and Compliance Findings for the Related Laws." The final rule, 24 CFR Part 50, "Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality" requires HUD approving officials and their program staffs to use this form to document compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the related laws and authorities listed at ' 50.4 (61 FR 50914). If the form does not meet specific program needs, the Departmental Environmental Clearance Officer must approve any equivalent format that is to be used in lieu of HUD Form-4128.

2. Summary. The form replaces both HUD Form-4128, entitled "Environmental Assessments for Subdivision and Multifamily Projects" (last issued 07/93) and HUD Form-4128.1, entitled "Compliance and LAC Conditions Record" (last issued 07/93). Handbook 1390.2, entitled "Environmental Assessment Guide for Housing Projects" will be revised to conform with Part 50. The Sample Field Notes Checklist (SFNC) or its equivalent should be used to document and support the environmental assessment and compliance findings. A draft SFNC will be available pending revision of Handbook 1390.2. Suggestions for inclusion in Handbook 1390.2 may be addressed to Departmental Environmental Clearance Officer: Richard H. Broun, Director, Office of Community Viability, Room 7240.

3. For all HUD programs subject to Part 50, the HUD approving official authorized to make the approval decision for any project is responsible for complying with 24 CFR Part 50 prior to approval of a specific site, project, disposition program, financial assistance for projects or the issuance of Site Appraisal and Market Analysis (SAMA) Letter or initial equivalent indication of HUD approval. The form shall also be used to record compliance decisions for the related laws for projects that are categorically excluded from NEPA in accordance with ' 50.20.

4. Environmental officers should provide technical assistance in the implementation of this notice.

DPVR: Distribution: W-3-1, Special Distribution to Field Counsels, Area and State Coordinators, and Secretary's Representatives
ATTACHMENT IS FORM HUD-4128, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND COMPLIANCE FINDINGS FOR THE RELATED LAWS.
Special Attention of:             Transmittal Handbook No.: 1390.2
Program Staff                     Issued:  June 1985

1.  This Transmits


2.  Explanation of Materials

The Guide is not a HUD regulation. It is intended to be a comprehensive instructional manual to assist HUD staff in preparing environmental assessments for housing projects when required by Departmental environmental regulations at 24 CFR Part 50.

3.  Filing Instructions

Insert:  Handbook 1390.2

FOREWORD

The purpose of the Guide is to provide assistance to HUD staff preparing environmental assessments for housing projects when an assessment is required by HUD's environmental regulations. The objective is to simplify documentation and expedite the environmental review process.

The Guide is not a HUD regulation. The environmental requirements are
The Guide is a comprehensive instructional manual for assessing environmental impacts. It defines the substantive issues, sets forth the critical assessment questions, indicates methods for analysis and determining impacts, suggests mitigation measures, and provides sources of information both in terms of written materials and resource individuals. The Guide covers the environmental factors that are on the new HUD environmental assessment forms (HUD-4128 and HUD 4128.1), which are included as appendices to 24 CFR Part 50.

The Guide was developed jointly by staff from CPD, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Development and Housing, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy, Financial Management and Administration. The work was coordinated with and reviewed by the Council on Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Veterans Administration, the Farmers Home Administration and the National Association of Home Builders.

The Guide will be revised and supplemented as additional materials are prepared. Comments should be sent to Headquarters CPD, Office of Environment and Energy and to Housing, Environmental Clearance Officer.