

NB_130_12_3, Delegation and Documentation Authority to Sign Form NRCS-CPA-052 as Responsible Federal Official

National Bulletin: 130-12-3 **Date:** July 6, 2012
Subject: AGN - Delegation and Documentation Authority to Sign Form
NRCS-CPA-052 as Responsible Federal Official

Action Required By: August 9, 2012

Purpose. To ensure each State has delegated and documented authority to sign the NRCS-CPA-052 as responsible Federal official (RFO).

Expiration Date. September 30, 2013

Background. During oversight and evaluation (O&E) reviews it has been noted that many States have not properly documented delegation of authority to sign the NRCS-CPA-052 as RFO, in compliance with the National Environmental Compliance Handbook (revised June 3, 2011).

According to Title 190, National Environmental Compliance Handbook, Part 610, Subpart A, Section 610.2(65), "Responsible Federal Official (RFO)," the RFO is "The agency official who is authorized to make specific decisions. The NRCS Chief is the RFO for compliance with NEPA regarding proposed legislation, programs, legislative reports, regulations, and program EISs. NRCS State Conservationists (STCs) are the RFOs for compliance with the provisions of NEPA in other NRCS-assisted actions (NRCS eDirectives, 190-GM, Part 410, Subpart A, Section 410.4)."

Title 190, General Manual (GM), Part 410, Subpart A, Section 410.4, states that the Chief is the RFO for compliance with NEPA regarding proposed legislation, programs, legislative reports, regulations, and program EISs. STCs or their designees are the RFOs for compliance with the provisions of NEPA in other NRCS-assisted actions.

Explanation. STCs are the RFOs for compliance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The STC has the option of delegating the authority to a specific designee. The designee must be authorized in writing. States may accomplish this by adding a supplement to the general manual or by issuing a State bulletin. If using a bulletin, it must be reissued annually.

An example found during a Program Delivery Review is attached.

All States should submit a copy of *either* their documentation of delegated authority to sign the NRCS-CPA-052 as RFO *or* a memo from the STC stating he or she will retain the RFO status and sign NRCS-CPA-052s to Teresa Stewart at Teresa.Stewart@ftw.usda.gov within 30 days after this bulletin has been posted.

Contact. If you have any questions regarding this bulletin please contact Teresa Stewart, Oversight & Evaluation, at (817) 509-3745. Any questions concerning the NRCS-CPA-052 should be directed to Matthew Judy, national environmental coordinator, at (817) 509-3291.

/s/

Leonard Jordan
Regional Conservationist - East Region

/s/

Thomas W. Christensen
Regional Conservationist - Central Region

/s/ Richard Sims for

Astor Boozer
Regional Conservationist - West Region

/s/

Richard Sims
Regional Conservationist - Northeast Region

[Attachment](#)