Definitions of Potential Negative Impact Levels

Impact Level	Biological & Physical Resources	Socioeconomic Resources
NEGLIGIBLE	No measurable impacts	No measurable impacts
MINOR	 Most impacts on the affected resource could be avoided with proper mitigation. If impacts occur, the affected resource is expected to recover completely without any mitigation once impacting agent removed. 	 Adverse impacts on the affected activity or community could be avoided with proper mitigation. Impacts would not disrupt the normal or routine functions of the affected activity or community. Once impacting agent eliminated, the affected activity or community is expected to return to a condition with no measurable effects.
MODERATE	 Impacts on the affected resource are unavoidable. The viability of the affected resource is not threatened, although some impacts may be irreversible, OR The affected resource would recover completely if proper mitigation applied or proper remedial action is taken once the impacting agent is gone. 	 Impacts on the affected activity or community are unavoidable. Proper mitigation would reduce impacts substantially during the life of the proposed Project, including decommissioning. The affected activity or community would have to adjust somewhat to account for disruptions due to impacts of the project, OR Once the impacting agent is gone, the affected activity or community is expected to return to a condition with no measurable effects proper remedial action taken.
MAJOR	 Impacts on the affected resource are unavoidable. The viability of the affected resource may be threatened, AND The affected resource would not fully recover even if proper mitigation applied, or remedial action taken once the impacting agent is gone. 	 Impacts on the affected activity or community are unavoidable. Proper mitigation would reduce impacts. The affected activity or community would experience unavoidable disruptions to a degree beyond what is normally acceptable, AND The affected activity or community may retain measurable effects indefinitely, even after the impacting agent is gone and even if remedial action is taken.