

# Understanding the National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) became law in 1969 and is a national policy that encourages productivity and enjoyable harmony between man and the environment.

## Public Involvement

Public involvement is an essential component of the NEPA process. Public involvement assists the National Guard Bureau in understanding community interests to make more informed decisions regarding proposals.



It has been determined that the level of analysis required by NEPA for this proposal is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**A Citizen's Guide to NEPA:  
Having Your Voice Heard**



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President Nixon signed the NEPA Act into law on January 1, 1970. This legislation established a landmark national environmental policy that encourages environmental protection and informed decision-making.

NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of proposed federal actions prior to making a decision regarding the action.

NEPA also established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which established regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the Act found at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508.

## NEPA

- Mandates that every Federal agency prepare a detailed statement of the potential effects of major Federal actions that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment;
- Established the requirement for agencies to consider practicable alternatives to the proposed action;
- Requires an interdisciplinary approach to analyzing potential environmental effects;
- Requires that proponents obtain comments from any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact;
- Requires that the public have sufficient opportunity to review and comment on the environmental analyses that guide the decision-making process. NEPA ensures that agencies consider the potential significant environmental consequences of their proposed action and inform the public about these impacts and the decisions to be made.



By Series: Nixon White House Photographs, 1/20/1969 - 8/9/1974  
Collection: White House Photo Office Collection (Nixon Administration), 1/20/1969 - 8/9/1974



## The EIS Timeline

Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS  
Published in Federal Register

Minimal 30-day Scoping Period

Refine Proposed Action  
and Alternatives

Preparation of Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement

Draft EIS Available for Public Review  
Minimal 45-day Comment Period

Preparation of Final  
Environmental Impact Statement

Notice of Availability of Final  
Environmental Impact Statement

30-day Waiting Period

Record of Decision

Air Force  
Notice to Proceed

Opportunities for  
Public Involvement

