

# Understanding the National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA requires federal agencies to address environmental resource areas potentially affected by a proposed action. To determine these resource areas, federal agencies such as the National Guard Bureau conduct “scoping” early in the NEPA process, both internally and externally with government agencies and the public to identify issues related to a proposed action.



## ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE AREAS

### Biological Resources

Plants and animals; native and non-native species, and their habitats, including wetlands; coastal zones; threatened, endangered or sensitive species.



### Cultural Resources

Archaeological, architectural and traditional resources that may take the form of sites, structures, artifacts, historic districts or other physical evidence of human activity important to a culture or community for scientific, traditional, religious or other reason.



### Environmental Justice

Environmental and human health impacts that may disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income communities. Impacts to children and the elderly are given special consideration.



### Land Use

General land use patterns, land ownership, land management plans, and specific use areas.



### Air Quality

Types and amounts of criteria pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, size and topography of air basins and prevailing meteorological conditions.



### Transportation

Existing road networks, traffic performance, planned improvements, transit services, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.



### Water Resources

Groundwater, surface water, wetlands, and floodplains.



### Safety

Ground, explosive, and flight safety associated with operations conducted by the National Guard.



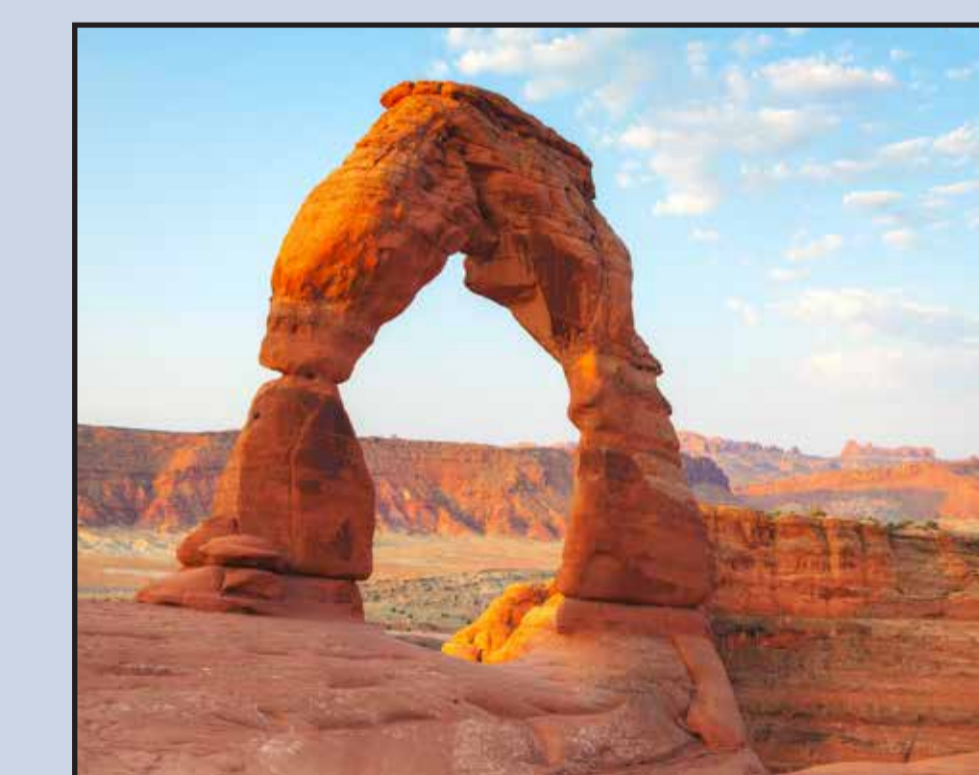
### Infrastructure

Water, wastewater treatment, electricity, and natural gas utilities.



### Earth Resources

Soil types, topography, land and surfaces drainage features.



### Noise

Noise sources, surrounding background noise, and noise measurements and thresholds.



### Socioeconomics

Economic activity, employment, income, regional industry, property values, population, housing, public schools and services.



### Airspace Operations

Designated use and administration of training airspace to accommodate military, commercial, and general aviation needs.



### Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Identification of contaminated or remediation sites, storage tanks, asbestos, lead-based paint, polychlorinated biphenyls, chlordane, and hazardous material management. Solid waste collection, transport, separation, recovery and disposal systems.

