

The NEPA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides for the consideration of environmental issues in Federal agency planning and decision making. NEPA requires that major Federal actions be examined for both individual and cumulative environmental impacts. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a concise public document that:

- Briefly provides sufficient evidence for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impact (FONSI);
- Aids compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary;
- Facilitates preparation of an EIS when one is necessary; and
- Informs decision makers and the public of the potential environmental impacts of reasonable alternatives.

Below is a description of the environmental review process for an EA.

Environmental Assessment Development Process

Although not required under FAA or Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the FAA is holding a public information meeting about the licensing process, NEPA process, and the proposed action. (July 11, 2006)

The FAA will issue the Notice of Availability of the Draft EA and provide copies of the document to interested parties.

Comments on the Draft EA will be solicited from Federal, state, and local agencies, Native American tribes, the public, and other interested parties.

The FAA will consider comments received on the Draft EA and will include any necessary modifications or additions in the Final EA.

Once the Final EA is published, the FAA will issue either a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS or a FONSI.

Public Information Meeting



Draft Environmental Assessment



Draft EA Public Review and Comment Period



Final Environmental Assessment



Determination: Notice of Intent to prepare EIS or FONSI