

# 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 Impact Statement (EIS) is a detailed public document that provides an assessment of the potential impacts a Federal action might have on the human or natural environment. The EIS also informs decision makers and the public of the potential environmental impacts of reasonable alternatives.

Describes the range of alternatives. Includes the proposed project and no action.

**Proposed Action**

Initiates public scoping and the NEPA process. Invites comments on the scope of the EIS.

**Notice of Intent**

January 24, 2006  
(71 FR 3915)

Solicits comments from the public and other agencies. Identifies potentially significant impacts. Eliminates non-significant issues.

**Scoping Comment Period**

January 24, 2006 to March 3, 2006

Releases Draft EIS to public, Native American tribes and Federal, state, or local agencies.

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

To be determined

Solicits comments on the Draft EIS from Federal, state, and local agencies, Native American tribes, public, and other interested parties.

**Public Review and Public Hearings**

To be determined

Considers individual and cumulative impacts. Responds to public comments.

**Final Environmental Impact Statement**

To be determined

Outlines FAA's decision making process. States whether means to minimize environmental harm were adopted.

**Record of Decision**

To be determined

***Schedule will depend on issues raised during scoping and the public review period***