

PURPOSE AND NEED

NEED – a condition that needs to be changed. What’s the problem?

PURPOSE – an objective; goal to be met by satisfying the need. Why resolve the problem?

ALTERNATIVES – options to resolve the problem (need) to achieve the objective (purpose).

The Need must be clearly defined and demonstrated; explain and support it. It must be easily understood by document reviewers; succinct and consistent.

Need and Purpose should not be defined either too broadly or restrictively. They must be clear and credible. They should not bias or limit alternatives. Alternatives analysis is based on Purpose and Need.

Each component of a NEPA document should tie-back to the Need and Purpose.

Critical to get it right and have participating agencies agree on it. Base analysis on current Terminal Area Forecast (TAF). Utilize current guidance and orders. Document commensurate with impact and public interest.

TJ Stetz 11/7/06