

National Environmental Policy Act

What is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

Enacted as a law in 1970, the NEPA establishes a national environmental policy and provides a process for implementing the goals of the law to protect, maintain, and enhance the environment. NEPA requires federal agencies to consider potential environment effects of the proposed actions prior to making decisions and provide opportunities for public involvement in the decision-making process.

What is Programmatic NEPA?

- . Broad or high-level NEPA review that assesses the environmental impacts of a suite of actions under proposed policies, long-term plans, or programs.
- . Applies to projects that cover a large geographic area.
- Results in a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), depending on the level of significance of the effects.
- . Subsequent, site-specific NEPA reviews for individual projects may be tiered from the programmatic document as necessary.

Benefits of Programmatic NEPA

- . Streamlines the NEPA review creating efficiencies and cost savings.
- Defines the categories of activities, the associated impacts, and implementation processes.
- Identifies adaptive management, environmental protection measures, best management practices, and/or conservation measures.
- . Classifies the actions that would require additional tiered NEPA review.





