

# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

NEPA is the basic national charter for the protection of the environment. NEPA requires all federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental effects of any proposed major actions and inform and involve the public in the decision-making process

## WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT?

If it is uncertain whether a Proposed Action would have significant environmental effects, it is analyzed in an Environmental Assessment (EA). An EA includes the following:

**PROPOSED ACTION:** This is the major project a federal agency would like to complete.

**PURPOSE AND NEED:** This is why the federal agency believes the Proposed Action is necessary.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Technically feasible project alternatives that would satisfy the primary objectives of the project defined in the Purpose and Need statement.

**RESOURCE AREAS:** The EA assesses the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives on each resource area.

### Draft EA

An EA is prepared by a team of environmental professionals to describe the Proposed Action, alternatives, and environmental impacts.

### Notice of Availability (NOA)

Announces the availability of the Draft EA and where to access the document.

### Draft EA Public Comment Period

The Draft EA is made available to agencies and the public for review and comment. The public comment period for this EA is 30 days, beginning January 24, 2024 and ending on February 22, 2024

### Preparation of Final EA:

After the 30-day public review period, the Air Force considers all comments that were received and a Final EA is prepared.

### Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

If the Final EA finds that there will be no significant impacts as a result of the Proposed Action, a FONSI is prepared and a NOA will be published to announce the FONSI. The Air Force would then proceed with implementing the Proposed Action.

Each alternative's direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on these resource areas are examined.

A Draft EA is made available to the public for review before any decision is made.

If no significant impacts are identified, a FONSI will be signed, and the Air Force will proceed with the action.

## RESOURCE AREAS CONSIDERED

- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Soils & Geological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Visual Resources
- Biological Resources
- Land Use
- Hazardous Materials & Wastes
- Airspace
- Noise
- Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Public Health & Safety
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice