

# National Environmental Policy Act Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, is our national charter for protection of the environment. NEPA requires the consideration of impacts to the human and natural environment in federal agency planning and decision-making. NEPA is implemented by Council on Environmental Quality regulations and federal agency implementing guidelines. Major federal actions must be examined for both individual and cumulative environmental impacts. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a detailed public document that analyzes the potential impacts of a proposed federal action and its reasonable alternatives.

The FAA publishes the Notice of Intent (NOI) after making a decision to prepare an EIS. The NOI initiates public scoping and the EIS process, and invites comments on the scope of the EIS.

Notice of Intent

October 2002

The scoping process invites the participation of the public and other agencies. The process can help identify alternatives, issues, and impacts to be analyzed in detail.

Scoping Process

October – December 2002

The FAA provides copies of the Draft EIS to the public, Native American tribes, and cognizant Federal, state, and local agencies.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

July 2003 (tentative)



A public review and comment period follows the publication of the Draft EIS. The FAA also holds public hearings to receive comments.

Public Review and Public Hearings

August 2003 (tentative)

The Final EIS considers all comments raised during public review. Responses to comments are included in the Final EIS as appropriate.

Final Environmental Impact Statement

April 2004 (tentative)



The Record of Decision (ROD) documents the agency's decision, the reasoning behind the decision, and any required mitigation measures. The ROD becomes effective 30 days after the publication of the Final EIS.

Record of Decision

May 2004 (tentative)