The National Environmental Policy Act

BACKGROUND

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was enacted to address concerns about federal actions and their effects on the

environment. NEPA's main objectives are as follows:

- Ensure analysis of proposed federal programs, projects, and actions before decision making
- Inform the public of proposed federal activities that might affect environmental quality
- Encourage and facilitate public involvement in the decisionmaking process.

WHAT IS AN EIS?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most detailed analysis prescribed by the regulations implementing NEPA. An EIS is a detailed public document describing:

- A proposed action
- All alternative actions that were considered
- Environmental impacts of implementing the proposed action and reasonable alternatives.

Steps in the EIS Process



