

NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Enacted as law in 1970, NEPA establishes a national environmental policy and provides a process for implementing the goals of the law which are protecting, maintaining, and enhancing the environment.

NEPA is often referred to as an umbrella law, because multiple other laws, executive orders and regulations are considered as part of the NEPA process

NEPA encourages harmony between people and the environment; promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate unnecessary environmental change; requires federal agencies to:

- (1) Consider potential environmental consequences of federal actions,
- (2) Provide opportunities for public involvement in the decision making process.

NEPA and You - *Your involvement is Important. We need your input.*

Your Comments:

- ▶ Help shape the direction and analysis of impacts
- ▶ Ensure your concerns are part of the public records and are shared with decision makers who benefit from your knowledge
- ▶ Should present reasonable alternatives or components to the project with rational basis for consideration of the environment
- ▶ Should consider potential impacts to you such as your property, your community, and local infrastructure, services, economy, etc.
- ▶ Should identify resource issues and/or alternatives to the project or its components while providing a rational basis for consideration of issues or alternatives identified.

- ① Need for action identified
- ② Scoping
- ③ Prepare Draft EA and FONSI
- ④ Internal Review
- ⑤ Edit Draft EA and FONSI
- ⑥ Public Review
- ⑦ Finalize EA and FONSI
- ⑧ FONSI signed
- ⑨ Publish/Distribute EA and FONSI
- ⑩ Implement Action

