

# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

32 CFR 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and requires the Army to assess actions that have the potential to impact human health and the environment. One of the main purposes of NEPA is to provide the public an opportunity for input on actions that may have environmental consequences on Army lands as well as enable Army decision makers to make informed decisions.

## REVIEW PROCESS

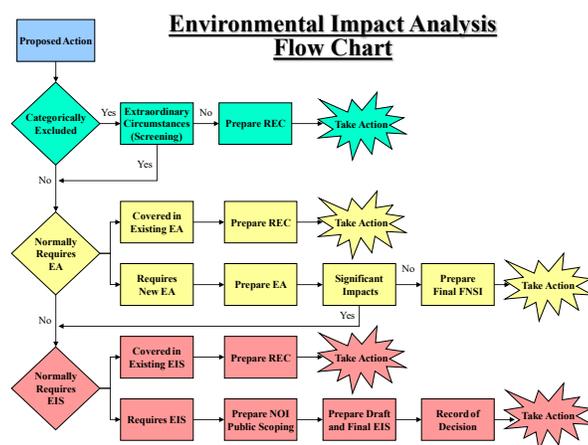
**Step 1:** The NEPA process requires that all installation proposed actions or projects be included as early as possible in the decision making process so that all relevant environmental concerns can be considered before a final decision is made.

**Step 2:** To ensure compliance with NEPA, consult with the DPW Environmental NEPA Program Manager when an action is proposed to determine if environmental documentation is required. Start the process early. The NEPA process can be time consuming depending on the environmental impacts of the proposed action. Early NEPA consideration prevents costly delays.

**Step 3:** For actions that could impact historic structures or cultural and natural resources, or involve new construction, introduce new training vehicles or weapons, complete a record of environmental consideration (REC) and submit it to the DPW NEPA section for evaluation.

**Step 4:** The depth of required analysis depends on many things, including but not limited to the significance of the project, its effects on the public, and the degree of environmental impact. There are essentially 3 levels of environmental impact analysis, and each requires a specific type of documentation as follows:

- **Record of Environmental Consideration (REC):** The REC briefly describes the proposed action and explains why further environmental analysis is not needed.
- **Environmental Assessment (EA):** An EA is conducted for proposed actions that are expected to have environmental impacts and to evaluate possible alternatives. If the EA cannot describe a "finding of no significant impact" (FNSI) then an EIS needs to be prepared.
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** The EIS is an extensive analysis of direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts as well as alternatives to the proposed project. A Record of Decision (ROD) will be signed when the process is completed.



For more info contact: DPW Environmental NEPA Program at (808) 656-3075.