

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 allow the decision makers (the Army) 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 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 analysis prevents costly and time-consuming delays.

Step 3: For actions that could impact historic structures, cultural and natural resources, create new construction, introduce new training vehicles and weapons complete a record of environmental consideration (REC) and submit to the DPW Environmental NEPA section for a 30 day evaluation. Copies of the REC form can be accessed at: <http://schou01c2dpwpri/general/moi.aspx>; **View local forms; Select form 29, 29A.**

Step 4: The depth of the 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 consideration, and each requires a specific type of documentation as follows:

- **Record of Environmental Consideration (REC):** Brief document that describes the proposed action and explains why further environmental analysis is not needed.
- **Environmental Assessment (EA):** An EA is conducted for actions that are expected to have environmental impacts and to evaluate possible mitigation measures. If the EA cannot describe a "finding of no significant impact" (FONSI) 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.

