



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Summary

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider potential environmental impacts in their decision-making process before making a decision regarding a proposed major Federal action. It also provides a mechanism for public review and input and the consideration of reasonable alternative actions for major federal actions. Any waste stream that DOE considers for potential disposal under the high-level radioactive waste interpretation will undergo appropriate NEPA analysis prior to any disposal decision.

Elements of the NEPA process generally include:

- Identify the proposed action.
- Determine the appropriate level of NEPA review (e.g., Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement).
- Prepare the required NEPA documentation.
- Prepare Record of Decision or Finding of No Significant Impact.

The NEPA process involves public participation. All Federal agencies are required to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation. Key opportunities for citizens to get involved include when a draft NEPA document is published for public review and comment.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality Regulations:

- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/nepapub/nepa_documents/RedDont/Reg-NEPA.pdf)
- 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/NEPA-40CFR1500_1508.pdf)

Department of Energy NEPA Regulations and Policy:

- 10 CFR Part 1021, National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures (<https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/10CFRPart1021.pdf>)
- DOE Policy, 451.1, National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program (https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/12/f46/DOE_Policy451.1.pdf)

NEPA Process DOE will use for forthcoming Savannah River Site Environmental Assessment (EA):

