

National Environmental Policy Act

A landscape photograph showing a dirt road leading to an industrial site. In the foreground, a dirt road curves from the bottom right towards the center. The middle ground features a large, cleared area of reddish-brown earth where two oil pumps are visible. To the right of the pumps, there are several large, cylindrical storage tanks and some smaller industrial buildings. The background consists of rolling green hills under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Amelia Pennington
Natural Resource Specialist
apennington@blm.gov

NEPA- January 1, 1970

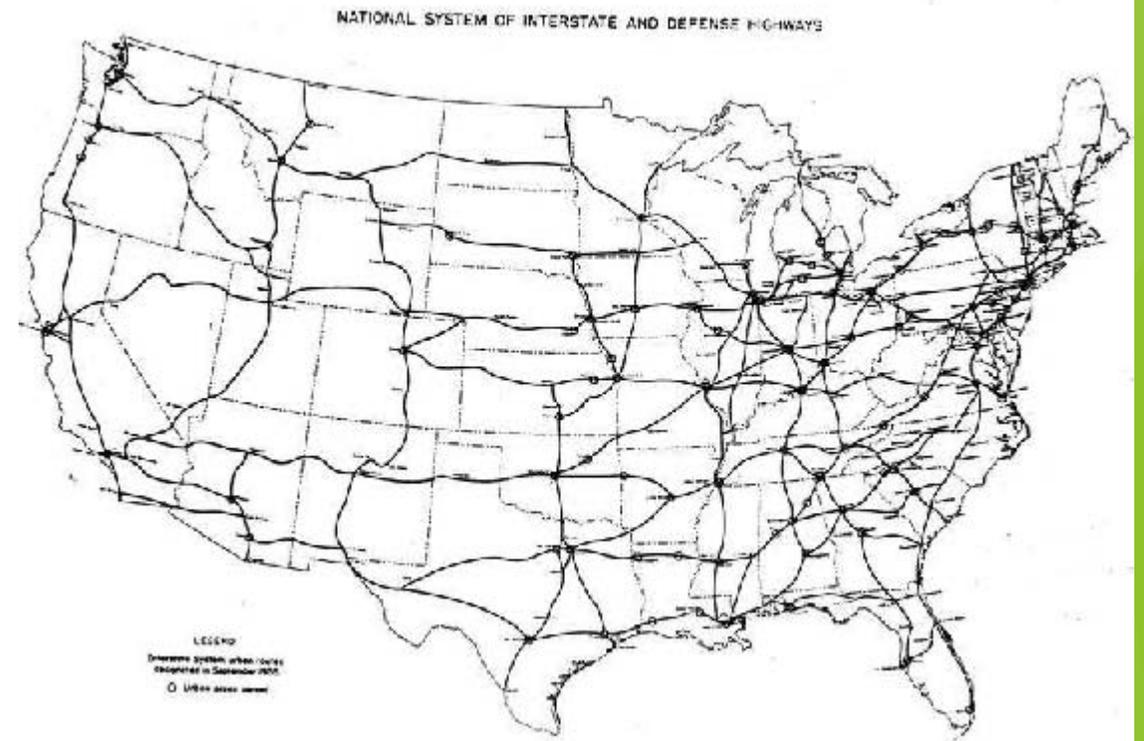
- ▶ Create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.
- ▶ NEPA did not advocate environmental preservation at all costs. Rather, it sought to balance environmental concerns with the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.

1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill



Picture from The Coast

Interstate Highway System



When Does NEPA Apply

Federal Action

- ▶ Federal Actions
 - ▶ Building highways
 - ▶ Federal/Indian oil leases and wells
 - ▶ Prescribed fire
 - ▶ An much more....
- ▶ Use of Federal Money

When Does NEPA Apply

Connected Action

- ▶ Flowlines
- ▶ Roads
- ▶ Powerlines
- ▶ Off site pits
- ▶ Extra Material

BLM and NEPA

- ▶ NEPA establishes a public, interdisciplinary framework for Federal decision-making and ensures that agencies (BLM and all other agencies) take environmental factors into account when considering Federal actions.
- ▶ NEPA does not mandate protection of the environment.
- ▶ Instead, it requires agencies to follow a particular process in making decisions and to disclose the information/data that was used to support those decisions.

WHY NEPA?









How is NEPA Implemented

- ▶ Categorical exclusion-CX
- ▶ These types of proposed activities do not individually or cumulatively have significant environmental effects and may be exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental analysis. These actions are not included in the online registers..

How is NEPA Implemented

Environmental Assessment-EA

An EA is prepared to determine if a proposed action or alternative will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. If the impacts are determined to be insignificant, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is prepared and is made a part of the decision. If the impacts are determined to be significant, the proposed action may be rejected, modified, or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may be prepared. Public involvement activities for an EA range from notifying those directly affected by the proposed action to providing review drafts for public comment and conducting workshops and meetings.

How is NEPA Implemented

Environmental Impact Statement-EIS

Major federal actions that may significantly affect the human environment require that an Environmental

How is NEPA Implemented

Determination of NEPA Adequacy- DNA

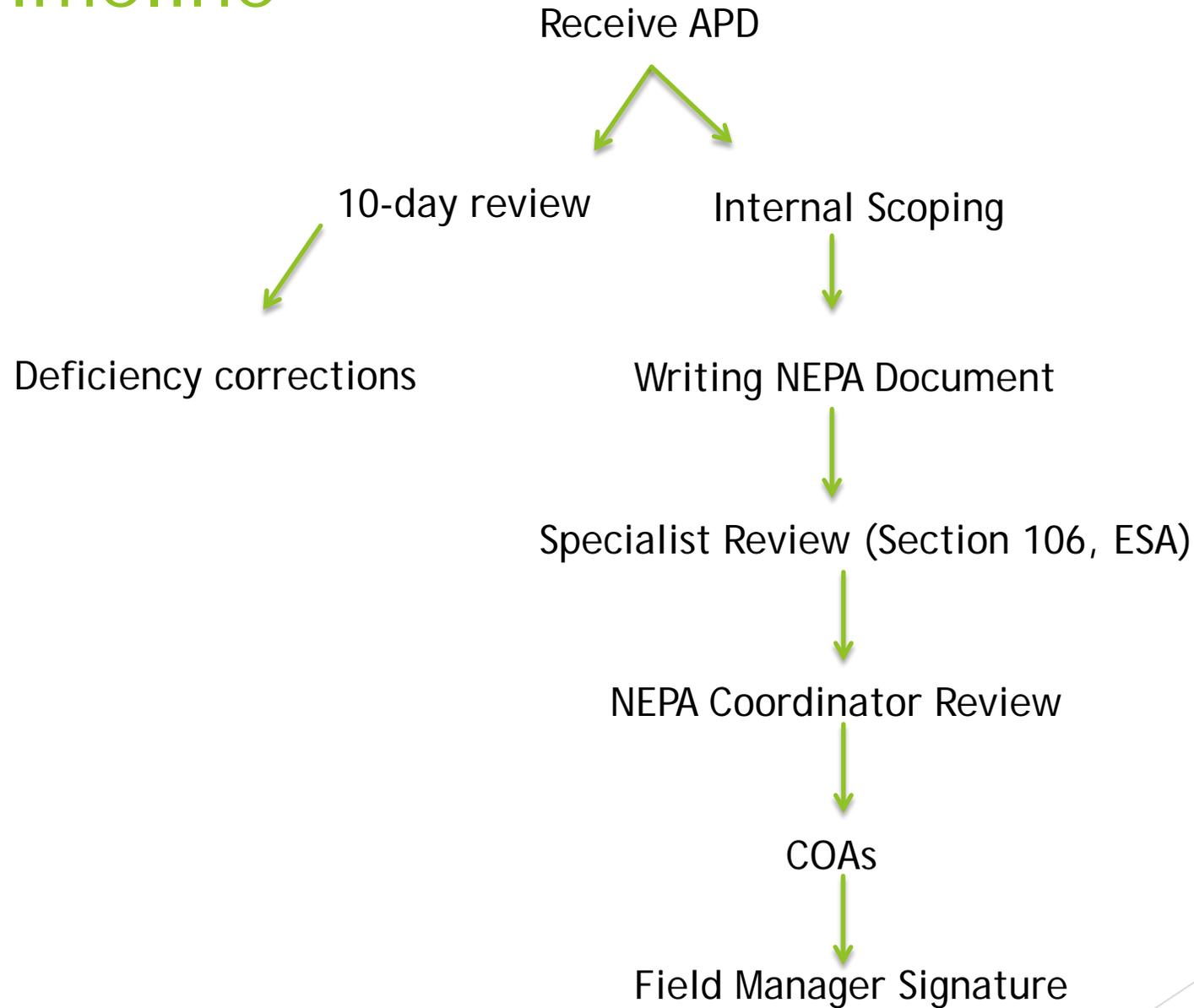
A Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) documents that previously prepared NEPA documents adequately describe the environmental consequences of a newly proposed action. In most cases, a DNA is prepared without additional public involvement activities.

How does NEPA relate to other Federal Acts?

- ▶ Endangered Species Act
- ▶ National Historic Preservation Act
- ▶ Clean Water Act
- ▶ Clean Air Act
- ▶ Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- ▶ Bald and Golden Eagle Act



Timeline



Lease Stipulations/BMPs/Mitigation

- ▶ Examples:

- ▶ Timing Stips
- ▶ Distance from nesting eagle
- ▶ Erosion
- ▶ Interim Reclamation



Any Questions?

