

NEPA-National Environmental Policy Act

- A law that requires the federal government to analyze potential environmental impacts of proposed actions.

NEPA process

- Plan-to-project period
- Formal initiation and public scoping
- Analysis
- 30 day comment period
- Evaluation of comments
- Decision
- Appeal period

Where does stakeholder group fit into the process?

- Primarily in the Plan-to-project period

Plan-to-Project

- An action is proposed*
- Alternatives are discussed*
- ID team members identified
- Determine level of NEPA analysis (Environmental Assessment "EA")
- Determine level of scoping
- Setup a timeline for completion

Project Initiation

- Project initiation letter to ID team members
- Initiate scoping
 - News releases
 - Letters to interested parties/groups*
 - Public meetings
 - Schedule of Proposed Actions

Analysis

- ID team meetings
- Proposed action and alternatives discussed in detail
- Specialists conduct analyses
 - Environmental impacts
 - Design criteria/BMPs
 - Mitigations
 - Concerns and opportunities are identified
- ID team lead drafts EA
- Field trips (both internal and external)

30-day comment period

- Preliminary EA released
- EA posted on San Juan Public Lands website
- CD or paper copies available upon request
- Comment period is a minimum of 30 days

Comments Evaluated

- All comments are addressed and put in the project file
- EA can be modified based on comments received
- Minor comments can be addressed in the Decision Document

Decision

- The decision regarding the proposed action(s) is written and signed
- Decision announced through news release beginning the appeal period.

Appeal Period

- Decision appealable for 30 calendar days
- Appeal-review by government solicitor
- No appeal-project may be initiated within business 5 days