

Reclamation Manual

Policy

Subject: National Environmental Policy Act

Purpose: Establish policy for implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Authority: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Executive Order (E.O.) 11990, Protection of Wetlands; E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management; E.O. 11991, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality; E.O. 12898, Environmental Justice; and E.O. 12114, International Environmental Effects.

Contact: Environmental and Planning Coordination Office, D-5100

1. National Environmental Policy.

- A. **Objective.** Reclamation will use all practicable means and measures to create and maintain water development and management conditions under which people and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.
- B. **Policy.** Reclamation will integrate environmental considerations into all decisionmaking that potentially affects the environment.
- (1) Reclamation will provide all reasonable opportunity for input and involvement from the public and other Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies on environmental issues.
 - (2) Decisionmaking will integrate, as practicable, all applicable environmental laws and Executive Orders, Secretarial Orders, etc., including but not limited to NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, E.O. 11990, E.O. 11988, E.O. 12898, and E.O. 12114.
 - (3) Appropriate and reasonable alternatives will be developed and assessed for actions that may significantly affect the environment.
 - (4) Reclamation will use the best available environmental data, and acquire additional data as appropriate and reasonable, to support decisionmaking.
 - (5) Reclamation's NEPA Handbook provides policy directives and guidance on the use and applicability of NEPA to Reclamation activities.