



NEPA CX

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT – CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS FOR TESTING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AND THE ARMY'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.



EQT Defilade Fighting Position Design - Before



EQT Defilade Fighting Position Design - After

For more information

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The U.S. Army Environmental Command is developing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusions (CX) for the Army NEPA regulation and to better support NEPA compliance for Army test and evaluation missions and the Environmental Quality Technology (EQT) program.

Many routine test mission activities meet the criteria for a CX under NEPA. Army installations typically prepare a record of environmental consideration (REC) for such actions. Army NEPA regulations stipulate that the application of certain CXs be documented in a REC when a proposed action meets the criteria of a CX listed in the Army NEPA regulation, or when the proposed action is covered under an existing environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS).

Currently, there are no CXs for test and evaluation activities or EQT designs, so RECs must be based on existing EAs or EISs. Where a previous EA or EIS does not exist, a new EA may be required despite the proposed action meeting CX criteria of "no significant individual or cumulative environmental effects".

The new CXs will be based on previous NEPA documentation from Army Developmental Test Command installations; including EAs resulting in a "finding of no significant impact," or multiple RECs have been prepared over the past four to five years. NEPA documents that have been evaluated to identify test, evaluation and demonstration activities that have been repeatedly subject to NEPA evaluation without significant environmental effects from the following locations:

- White Sands Missile Range, N.M.
- Aberdeen Test Center, Md.
- West Desert Test Center, Utah.
- Yuma Test Center, Ariz.
- Redstone Technical Test Center, Ala.

The Army Environmental Command is also developing expert opinions from the service's testing and evaluating community environmental personnel, and CX justifications in line with the recently released draft CX guidance from the White House Council on Environmental Quality. EQT CXs will be based on empirical data collected at installations where program designs are in place and working effectively. Categories for EQT CXs include low water stream crossings, defilade positions, berms, and targets and emplacements.



Tank Trail Low Water Crossing Project - Before



Tank Trail Low Water Crossing Project - After

