



GEO-ENABLING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PRACTICES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA'S) NEPAssist

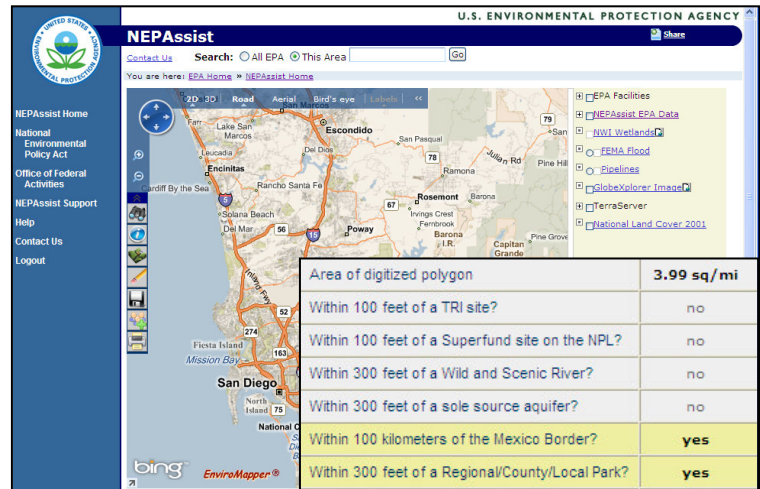


Background: EPA's NEPAssist was created to assist federal, state, and local agencies with the environmental review process mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Value Statement: NEPAssist is a web-based GIS application that saves agencies time and resources with its standardized, data-driven approach using consistent federal, state, and local data sets. Using NEPAssist can reduce the time it takes to review federal agencies' scoping notices and projects at early stages of development by 75%, allowing practitioners to respond to many more scoping notices than in the past while also reducing time needed to prepare NEPA environmental assessments (EAs) by as much as four weeks.

What Functions Does NEPAssist Provide?

- Assists NEPA practitioners in:
 - Reviewing scoping notices
 - Responding to the scoping notices
 - Preparing NEPA Environmental Assessments (EAs)
- Provides EPA, as well as other federal, state, and local agencies, with access to environmental information and analytical tools that support compliance with NEPA
- The NEPAssist application was recently updated to take advantage of new geospatial and web technologies by:
 - Providing access to real-time data from multiple agencies and displaying customized regional analysis reports directly from each region through geospatially enabled web-services
 - Allowing regions to provide a geospatial proximity analysis "on the fly"
 - Providing users with access to detailed reports that reflect environmental concerns within their area of interest



What Kind of Acclaim has NEPAssist Received?

- Selected to receive the prestigious ESRI Special Achievement in GIS Award from over 100,000 user sites worldwide
- Won EPA's Mason Hewitt Award for Excellence, which recognizes GIS technical excellence of national significance
- Won the EPA Gold Medal for Exceptional Service
- Received broad acclaim from the user community of NEPA practitioners

How Has the NEPAssist Model Been Leveraged?

- The NEPAssist user community now consists of over 600 NEPA Practitioners from 30 federal agencies, 44 tribes, and multiple states and local agencies
- An increasing number of stakeholders are enthusiastic to build NEPAssist partnerships with EPA, and collaborate to enhance NEPAssist with new functionality and data
- NEPAssist has proven to be an effective tool to assist with EPA's environmental capacity building and international collaboration efforts. The NEPAssist team is currently collaborating with the Central America-Dominican Republic-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) countries to deploy a similar tool for environmental reviews based on NEPAssist.

For Additional Information, Please Contact:

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