



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

OVERVIEW

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG



The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is our basic national charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals and provides means for carrying out the policy. The NEPA process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore and enhance the environment. Federal agencies have been directed to implement procedures that make the NEPA process more useful to decision makers and the public; to reduce paperwork and the accumulation of extraneous background data and to emphasize real environmental issues and alternatives.

The NEPA process consists of an evaluation of relevant environmental effects of a federal project or action undertaking, including a series of pertinent alternatives. The NEPA process begins when an agency develops a proposal to address a need to take an action. Once a determination of whether or not the proposed action is covered under NEPA is made, there are three levels of analysis that a federal agency may undertake to comply with the law. These three levels include: preparation of a Categorical Exclusion (CE), preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI); or preparation and drafting of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Kansas City District's Planning Branch, Environmental Section has a professional team that is committed to providing quality environmental services. The team is focused on providing timely services and applying its experienced knowledge of natural resource assessments and restoration approaches. The district has prepared hundreds of NEPA documents under the Department of Defense and Army policies, guidance and regulations at both a program and project level. The Environmental Section regularly works with compliance issues related to the following; Clean Water Act, Sections 404, 401 and 402; National Historic Preservation Act; Migratory Bird Treaty; and Invasive Species Management Plans.

To support the NEPA/planning efforts, the district can provide a range of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services. Staff has collected GIS information as a by-product of implementing the Civil Works, Military and Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste missions. The district's GIS data includes the following; property boundaries; wildlife areas; wetlands and topology.

The district has experience in leading the following; environmental assessments; environmental impact statements; public and agency scoping meetings; production of natural resource management plans and a variety of internal and external planning documents. Among many projects, the Kansas City District is currently responsible for employing innovative environmental stewardship strategies through the restoration of 166,000 acres of aquatic and riparian habitat that includes wetlands and backwaters through the Missouri River Recovery Program (www.MoRiverRecovery.org).

| Key Messages | Facts & Figures |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Experienced team committed to quality environmental services ● Professional knowledge of natural resource assessments and restoration approaches ● GIS information assists district with NEPA/planning efforts ● District employs innovative environmental stewardship strategies for habitat restoration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NEPA was established in 1969 by the 91st U.S. Congress ● NEPA requires statements of environmental effects of proposed federal actions ● District is leading innovative strategies for habitat restoration of 166,000 acres |

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