

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

Kathleen Callister
NASA NEPA Program Manager

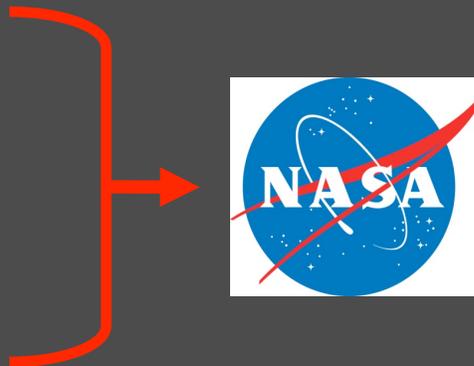
The National Environmental Policy Act

- ⦿ Statement of national environmental policy for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the environment and anticipates current concepts of sustainability
- ⦿ NEPA objectives:
 - 1. Prevent, minimize, or mitigate environmental damage
 - 2. Ensure that Agency decisionmakers take environmental factors into account through the program/project life cycle, beginning with the early planning process

When is NEPA triggered?

- Any NASA action which may have an impact on the quality of the environment.
- Includes programs and projects entirely or partially:

- Funded By
- Assisted By
- Conducted By
- Regulated By
- Approved By
- Permitted By



- Includes Research & Development, Construction of Facilities, Space Flight Activities, and Program Management.

Levels of NEPA Analysis and Documentation

- ◎ Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Brief, rigorous analysis
 - Results in Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS
 - Generally take 6-12 months and cost \$50K to \$150K
- ◎ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Actions with significant potential for environmental impacts
 - Required for
 - Space vehicles likely to release substantial amounts of foreign materials into Earth's atmosphere, or into space
 - Nuclear systems including reactors and thermal devices used for propulsion and/or power generation
 - - RHU's
 - Generally take 16-24 months and cost \$1 to \$5 million

Who is responsible for implementing NEPA?

- For potential applications of nuclear power sources, the NASA HQ Discovery Program Executive is responsible for:
 - Provides leadership, oversight, and resources (funds, contractor support, etc.)
 - With support from:
 - HQ NEPA Program Manager
 - One or More Center Environmental Management Offices (EMO's)
 - Responsible for
 - Appropriate level of NEPA documentation
 - Completing in a timely manner
 - Ensuring no final action is taken until NEPA process is complete
 - Environmental commitments are implemented.

When is NEPA implemented?

- ◎ NPR 7120.5D

- Complete in Phase B - preliminary design and technology development (Section 4.5.2)

- ◎ 42 CFR 1216.304

- Completion of an environmental assessment (EA) and the determination as to whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required must be made prior to the decision to proceed from the conceptual study phase to the detailed planning/definition phase of the proposed action
- The final EIS should be completed and circulated prior to the decision to proceed from the detailed planning/definition phase to the development/construction (or implementation) phase of the proposed action

What Does NEPA Analyze?

- Noise
- Land Use
- Socio-economic Impacts
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Wetlands & Watercourses
- Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Floodplains
- Farmlands
- Coastal Zone Management
- Coastal Barriers
- Aesthetics and Visual Impacts
- Solid And Hazardous Waste
- Historic, Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural
- Biotic Communities
- Endangered Species
- Energy Supply and Natural Resources
- Light Emissions
- Construction Impacts
- Surface Transportation
- Environmental Justice
- Cumulative Impacts
- Climate Change

Questions?

Contact:

Kathleen Callister

NEPA Program Manager

HQ – Environmental Management Division

Washington, DC 20546

Ph: 202-358-1953

Cell: 202-494-9144

Email: Kathleen.E.Callister@nasa.gov