

What is an Environmental Assessment?

Purpose Of An Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a comprehensive analysis of the social, economic, and environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of a project. At the conclusion of the EA, which involves public outreach and public involvement, a determination will be made as to whether the potential impacts are significant enough to warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. If potential impacts identified in the EA are not considered significant, the proposed project may proceed. An EA typically takes between 12 to 18 months to complete.

Why Are We Doing An Environmental Assessment?

- Required by Law - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969
- Federal Money or Federal Permits - The NEPA process is required when federal money is being used, and/or a federal permit is required
- Unknown Environmental Impacts - An EA is required to determine potential impacts associated with a proposed action



Environmental Categories

During the EA, the following environmental categories are being evaluated for potential significant impacts to the surrounding communities and the environment:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources, Threatened and Endangered Species
- Climate
- Coastal Resources
- Section 4(f) Resources
- Farmlands
- Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste and Pollution Prevention
- Historic, Architectural, Archeological, and Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Natural Resources and Energy Supply
- Noise and Noise Compatible Land Use
- Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Children's Environmental Health and Safety
- Light Emissions and Visual Effects
- Water Resources, Wetlands, Floodplains
- Cumulative Impacts
- Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) PROCESS FLOW CHART

