

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

BACKGROUND

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was enacted to address concerns about federal actions and their effects on the environment.

NEPA's main objectives are as follows:

- **Ensure** analysis of proposed federal programs, projects, and actions before decision-making
- **Inform** the public of proposed federal activities that might affect environmental quality
- **Encourage** and facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process

WHAT IS AN EIS?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most detailed analysis prescribed by the regulations implementing NEPA.

An EIS is a detailed public document describing:

- A proposed action
- All alternative actions that were considered
- Environmental impacts of implementing the proposed action and reasonable alternatives

STEPS IN THE EIS PROCESS

