WHAT IS NEPA?
Congress enacted the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 to ensure that information on the environmental impacts of any Federal or federally funded action is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and actions are taken.

THE NEPA PROCESS: AN OVERVIEW

Agency identifies need for action

Are environmental effects likely to be significant?

No

Proposed action is described in a Categorical Exclusion (CE)

Yes

Develop environmental assessment (EA) with public involvement to the extent practicable

Significant environmental effects uncertain or no agency CE

Yes

Notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statement (EIS)

Public scoping and involvement

Draft EIS

Public review and comment period

Final EIS (FEIS)

Public availability of FEIS

Record of decision

No

Does the proposal have extraordinary circumstances?

No

Finding of no significant impact

Decision

No

Implementation with monitoring as provided in the decision

Decision

Yes

Significant environmental effects may or will occur

Yes

Significant environmental effects?