

Other (Federal)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

What Activities Require This Permit? NEPA is not a permit, but participation in the NEPA review process may be required prior to issuance of some permits. Activities requiring any major federal action may be subject to the NEPA review process. Specifically, a federal project using federal funds, a project located on federal land or any project requiring a federal permit.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? NEPA is not an actual permit; rather it is an "environmental impact assessment process." The purpose of the NEPA process is to integrate environmental values into all major federal actions. Section 2 of the National Environmental Policy Act states that "the purposes of this Act are: To declare a national policy that will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality."

Who Issues This Permit? Appropriate federal agency.

How Much Will This Permit Cost?

Contact the appropriate lead federal agency to determine which level of environmental analysis will be needed for the specific project. The lead agency will be dependent upon the project type.

Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit?

First, a detailed project description will be needed to determine if a categorical exclusion applies. A categorical exclusion (CE) would mean the federal agency has determined the project as having no significant environmental impacts. If a CE does not apply, then the lead agency will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) for the project. Once this is completed and reviewed, either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared.

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? Each federal agency has adopted its own NEPA implementing procedures. For example, one agency may have a 30-day comment period while some other agencies have no required comment periods. Federal agencies are encouraged to set appropriate time limits for the specific federal action.

Where Do I Submit My Application? To the lead federal agency (varies according to project type).

How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? This will be determined by the appropriate lead agency, as each has adopted its own procedures to meet the requirements of NEPA.

Notes/Comments: None.

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: U.S. Code: Title 42, Chapter 55

Links: <http://www.nepa.gov>
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq>

Contact Information:

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