

## Other (Federal)

### National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

**What Activities Require This Permit?** NEPA is not a permit, rather it is an environmental impact assessment process. "NEPA applies to a broad range of Federal agency actions, including Federally-funded construction projects, plans to manage and develop Federal lands, and Federal authorizations of non-Federal activities such as licenses and permits. NEPA encompasses a variety of projects and activities, including construction of roads, bridges, highways, public transit, and airports, conventional and renewable energy production and distribution, electricity transmission, water infrastructure, and broadband deployment, as well as management of public lands, forests, and waters. Such management activities include leases and authorizations for energy production, mining, grazing, and other activities; management of national parks, forests, and fisheries; and environmental restoration projects."

**What Is The Purpose of This Permit?** "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 which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which 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?** Every agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government has a responsibility to implement NEPA.

**How Much Will This Permit Cost?** Contact the appropriate federal agency to determine the applicable level of NEPA review and learn about associated costs.

**Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit?** See the Notes/Comments section below for information on updates to NEPA and the final rule.

**How Long Will It Take to Review My Application?** Contact the appropriate federal agency to determine the applicable level of NEPA review and therein associated timeframe for review.

**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?** Contact the appropriate lead agency.

**Notes/Comments:** Please note there are updates to the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. This is a major rule subject to congressional review. *The effective date is September 14, 2020.* However, if congressional review has changed the effective date, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) will publish a document in the Federal Register to establish the actual effective date or to terminate the rule. The CEQ issues this final rule to update its regulations for Federal agencies to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CEQ has not comprehensively updated its regulations since their promulgation in 1978, more than four decades ago. This final rule comprehensively updates, modernizes, and clarifies the regulations to facilitate more efficient, effective, and timely NEPA reviews by Federal agencies in connection with proposals for agency action. The rule will improve interagency coordination in the environmental review process, promote earlier public involvement, increase transparency, and enhance the participation of States, Tribes, and localities. The amendments will advance the original goals of the CEQ regulations to reduce paperwork and delays, and promote better decisions consistent with the national environmental policy set forth in section 101 of NEPA.

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:** <https://ceq.doe.gov/laws-regulations/laws.html> and <https://ceq.doe.gov/laws-regulations/regulations.html>

**Links:** <http://www.nepa.gov>  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/07/16/2020-15179/update-to-the-regulations-implementing-the-procedural-provisions-of-the-national-environmental>

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#### **Contact Information:**

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