

Understanding the National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA requires federal agencies to address environmental resource areas potentially affected by a proposed action. To determine these resource areas, federal agencies such as the National Guard Bureau conduct "scoping" early in the NEPA process, both internally and externally with government agencies and the public to identify issues related to a proposed action.

Environmental Resource Areas

Biological Resources

Plants and animals; native and non-native species, and their habitats, including wetlands, threatened, endangered or sensitive species.



Land Use

General land use patterns, land ownership, land management plans, and specific use areas.



Safety

Ground, explosive, and flight safety associated with operations constructed by the National Guard.



Socioeconomics

Economic activity, employment, income, regional industry, property values, population, housing, public schools and services.



Cultural Resources

Archaeological, architectural and traditional resources that may take the form of sites, structures artifacts, historic districts or other physical evidence of human activity important to a culture or community for scientific, traditional, religious or other reason.



Air Quality

Types and amounts of criteria pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, size and topography of air basins and prevailing meteorological conditions.



Infrastructure

Water, wastewater treatment, electricity, and natural gas utilities.



Airspace Operations

Designated use and administration of airspace to accommodate military, commercial, and general aviation needs.



Transportation

Existing road networks, traffic performance, planned improvements, transit services, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.



Earth Resources

Soil types, topography, land and surface drainage features.



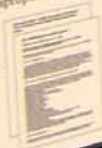
Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Identification of contaminated or remediation sites, storage tanks, asbestos, lead-based paint, polychlorinated biphenyls, chloridase, and hazardous material management. Solid waste collection, transport, separation, recovery and disposal systems.



Environmental Justice

Environmental and human health conditions that may disproportionately affect minorities and low-income communities. Environmental health and safety risks to children are also given special consideration.



Water Resources

Groundwater, surface water, wetlands, and floodplains.



Noise

Noise sources, surrounding background noise, and noise measurements and thresholds.

