



# National Environmental Policy Act

## Alabama and Mississippi Resource Management Plan

Jackson Field Office

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 USA 4321) establishes the national environmental policy and goals for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the environment. NEPA requires Federal agencies to use a multidisciplinary process to provide environmental impact information to Federal, State, local, and Indian Tribal officials as well as citizens before making decisions on major Federal actions that may significantly affect the environment. Federal agencies are required to obtain public input and to study, develop, and describe impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures on decisions that may impact the environment. The NEPA process is an all-inclusive process, which incorporates socioeconomic, historic, and a broad spectrum of environmental values into its review criteria.

Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA requires agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS is a report that outlines the predicted environmental effects of a particular action or project in which the federal government is involved. An EIS highlights the significant effects of a proposed project and describes alternative actions to that proposed project. A "no-action" alternative must also be considered.

**Mitigation Measures  
are techniques  
designed to minimize  
the impacts of  
development on the  
environment.**

NEPA requires the following areas to be addressed in land management planning:

- The environmental impact of the proposed action
- Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided
- Alternatives to the proposed action
- The relationship between short-term use and long-term productivity
- Any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources

NEPA procedures must ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and actions taken.

