

(1) Planning and decisionmaking reflect environmental values.

(2) Policies and goals of § 651.4 are implemented.

(3) Delays and potential conflicts later in the process are minimized.

(c) To achieve these actions, all Army decisionmaking that may have an impact on the human environment will use a systematic, interdisciplinary approach that ensures the integrated use of the natural and social sciences, planning, and the environmental design arts. (Pub. L. 91-190; sec. 102(2)(A)). This approach allows timely identification of environmental effects and values in sufficient detail for evaluation concurrently with economic, technical, and mission-related analyses at the earliest possible step in the decision process. When EAs or EISs are undertaken, the economic and social impacts will be included in the analysis of total environmental impacts. However, these secondary impacts, unaccompanied by physical environmental impacts, should not determine whether or not to prepare an environmental document.

(d) NEPA also requires the proponent of an action or project to identify and describe all reasonable alternatives to the proposed action or project. To assist in identifying reasonable alternatives, the proponent must consult appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and the general public.

(e) These procedures will assist the decisionmaker in selecting a preferred course of action. They provide the relevant background information and subsequent analyses of the proposal's positive and negative environmental effects. The decisionmaker's written environmental evaluation is either a CX with a record of consideration (REC), an EA with a FNSI, or an EIS with a ROD. (See subpart C.)

§ 651.8 Action requiring evaluation.

(a) The types of projects or actions to evaluate for environmental impact include—

(1) Policies, regulations, and procedures (for example, Army regulations and circulars).

(2) New management and operational concepts and programs in areas such as logistics, research, development, test

and evaluation, procurement, and personnel assignment.

(3) Projects (for example, facilities construction, research and development for weapons, vehicles, and other equipment).

(4) Activities (for example, individual and unit training, flight operations, overall operation of installation, or facility test and evaluation programs).

(5) Requests for a Nuclear Regulatory Commission license (new, renewal, or amendment) or an Army radiation authorization.

(6) Materiel development, acquisition, and/or transition.

(7) Research and development in areas such as genetic engineering, laser testing, and electromagnetic pulse generation.

(8) Installation restoration projects undertaken pursuant to section 104 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (40 CFR part 300), implements the requirements of CERCLA/SARA, and describes a formal process, the feasibility study (FS).

(i) The FS provides substantive and procedural standards to ensure full consideration of environmental issues and alternatives, and an opportunity for the public to participate in evaluating environmental factors and alternatives before a final decision is made.

(ii) In most cases, when a FS is prepared in accordance with 40 CFR part 300, a second NEPA document is not required. As a matter of policy, the organization preparing the FS will ensure the document also complies with 40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508. The cover of the FS document and the subsequent ROD will contain the legend "This document is intended to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969." All public notices announcing the availability of the FS will also note this intent. Installation Restoration Program actions in which an FS is not prepared in accordance with 40 CFR part 300 will require appropriate environmental documentation.

(9) Requests for special use airspace in accordance with AR 95-50 that require Federal Aviation Administration approval (new, renewal, or amendment).

(b) In addition to the above, certain activities supported by the Army through the following actions require proper environmental documentation:

(1) Federal contracts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of funding such as Government owned contractor operated industrial plants and section 801/802 Housing, Military Appropriations Act of 1984, construction, (via third-party contracting).

(2) Leases, easements, permits, licenses, certificates, or other entitlement for use (for example, grazing lease and grants of easement for highway right-of-way).

(3) Request for approval to use or store materials, radiation sources, hazardous and toxic material, or wastes on Army land. If the requester is non-Army, the responsibility to prepare the proper environmental documentation is that of the non-Army requester. If required, the requester will provide information needed for the Army review. The Army reviews and approves all environmental documentation before approving the request.

§ 651.9 Environmental review categories.

The following are the five broad categories into which a proposed action may fall for environmental review:

(a) *Exemption by law.* The law must apply to DOD and/or Army and must prohibit, exempt, or make impossible full compliance with NEPA (40 CFR 1500.6). (See § 651.11 for security exemptions).

(b) *Emergencies.* (1) In the event of an emergency, the Army may need to take immediate actions that have environmental impacts, that may include immediate actions to promote national

defense or security and actions necessary for the protection of life or property. In such cases the HQDA proponent will notify the Army Environmental Office, which in turn will notify the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations and Logistics (OASA (I&L)) who will coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Production and Logistics (ASD (P&L)) regarding the emergency action. Time is of the essence so that OASA (I&L) may consult with the CEQ if necessary. A public affairs plan should be developed as soon as possible so that channels of communication remain open between the media, public, and the installation. In no event will Army delay an emergency action necessary for national defense, security, or preservation of human life or property to comply with this regulation or the CEQ regulations. State call-ups of ARNG during a natural disaster are excluded from this consultation requirement.

(2) These notifications apply only to actions necessary to control immediate effects of the emergency; other actions remain subject to NEPA review. (40 CFR 1506.11)

(3) After action reports may be required at the discretion of the OASA (I&L).

(c) *Categorical exclusions (CX).* These actions (subpart D and appendix A) normally do not require an EA or an EIS. The Army has determined that they do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Qualification for a CX is described in subpart D of this regulation.

(d) *Environmental assessment (EA).* (See section for actions normally requiring an EA.)

(1) If the proposed action is adequately covered within an existing EA or EIS, prepare a REC to that effect. (See Figure 1).