

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

§ 775.2 Scope.

The policies and responsibility assignments of this part apply to the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, the Department of the Navy (DON), and the Navy and Marine Corps operating forces and shore establishments. This part is limited to the actions of these elements with environmental effects in the United States, its territories, and possessions.

§ 775.3 Policy.

(a) The Department of the Navy will act with care to ensure that, in conducting its mission of providing for the national defense, it does so in a manner consistent with national environmental policies. In so doing, the Navy recognizes that the NEPA process includes the systematic examination of the likely environmental consequences of implementing a proposed action. To be an effective decisionmaking tool this process will be integrated with other Navy-Marine Corps project planning at the earliest possible time. This ensures that planning and decisionmaking reflect environmental values, avoid delays, and avoid potential conflicts. Care will be taken to ensure that, consistent with other national policies and national security requirements, practical means and measures are used to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of the environment, to avoid or minimize adverse environmental consequences, and to attain the objectives of:

- (1) Achieving the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health and safety, or other consequences that are undesirable and unintended;
- (2) Preserving important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintaining, where possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- (3) Achieving a balance between resource use and development within the sustained carrying capacity of the ecosystem involved; and
- (4) Enhancing the quality of renewable resources and working toward the

maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

(b) The DON shall:

- (1) Assess environmental consequences of proposed actions that could affect the quality of the human environment in the United States, its territories, and possessions in accordance with DOD and CEQ regulations;
- (2) Use a systematic, interdisciplinary approach that will ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and environmental considerations in planning and decisionmaking where there may be an impact on man's environment;
- (3) Ensure that presently unmeasured environmental amenities are considered in the decisionmaking process;
- (4) Consider the reasonable alternatives to recommended actions in any proposal that would involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources;
- (5) Make available to states, counties, municipalities, institutions, and individuals advice and information useful in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of the environment; and
- (6) Use ecological information in planning and developing resource-oriented projects.

§ 775.4 Responsibilities.

(a) The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment (ASN(I&E)) shall:

- (1) Advise the Secretary of the Navy on DON policy regarding NEPA compliance.
- (2) Be the principal point-of-contact with the CEQ, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Environment (DASD(E)), other DOD components and federal agencies concerned with NEPA matters, and with private environmental groups as applicable.
- (3) Direct and/or, upon recommendation, approve the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS); and, after preparation, approve and forward said statements to the EPA and DASD(E) for review and comment.
- (4) Approve and forward to the Navy Judge Advocate General (JAG) Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI)