

Fact Sheet

National Environmental Policy Act



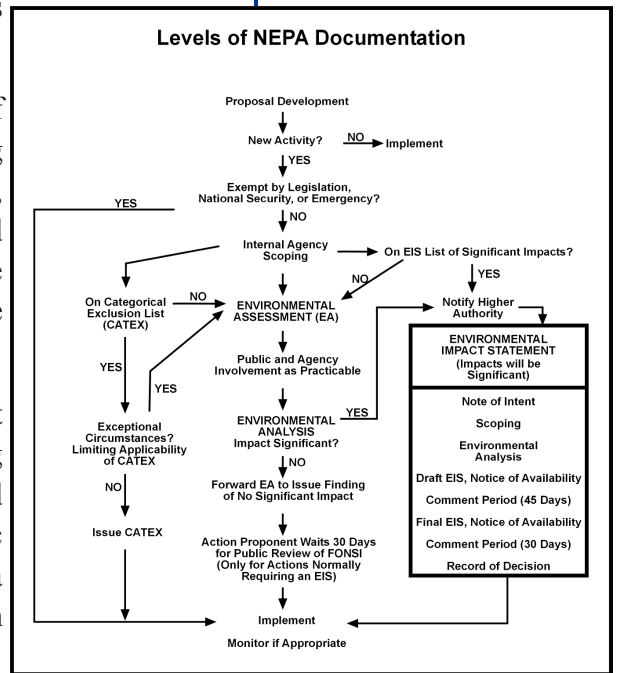
An Overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the national charter for promoting productive harmony between man and the environment and minimizing the impacts of federal actions. This law requires all federal agencies to consider potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives in making decisions about those actions. Public involvement is an essential part of the process. With public involvement and environmental analysis, the NEPA process helps the Navy arrive at an informed decision.

All federal agencies must consider the environmental impacts of any major proposed projects.

Informed decisions are based on a factual presentation of environmental impacts. These facts come from collecting information on the areas and resources (for example, threatened and endangered species, socioeconomics, and land use) affected by the proposal, and then identifying the type and extent of potential impacts resulting from the proposal.

This information is then presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). Following public review of the Draft EIS, comments are considered and integrated into the Final EIS and re-released for public review. The Secretary of the Navy then makes a determination on how to implement the proposed action based in part on the analysis provided in the Final EIS.



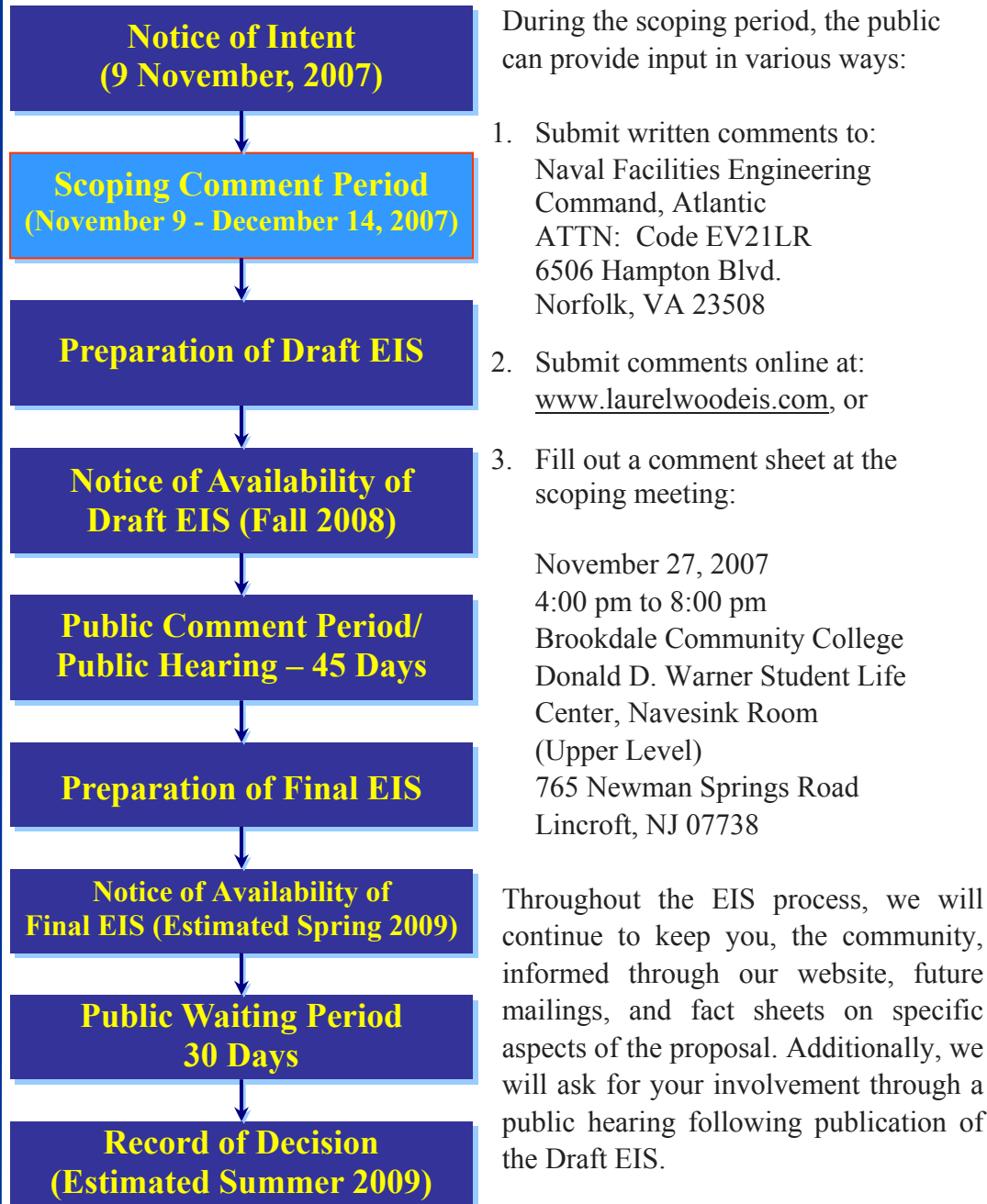
Public Involvement in Shaping the Scope of Analysis

The Navy is committed to keeping communities informed. To this end, we will meet with community representatives in the potentially affected area, issue press releases as appropriate, and maintain a public web site for this action. We will be obtaining citizens' input during the scoping process to help us understand community-specific issues and concerns. We anticipate feedback from community members such as: business and community leaders; federal, state, and local political representatives; school board members; environmental groups; and interested citizens—to name just a few.

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The official scoping period began with the Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* on November 9, 2007 and lasts until December 14, 2007. During this time, a public scoping open house is being held to help Navy representatives identify issues and to assist in defining the scope of analysis.



You have numerous ways in which you can provide input during the scoping process.

To ensure your comments are considered in the EIS analysis, please submit them (in writing or via our website) by December 14, 2007 to:

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