## The National Environmental Policy Act

## BACKGROUND

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was enacted to address concerns about federal actions and their effects on the

environment. NEPA's main objectives are as follows:

- Ensure analysis of proposed federal programs, projects, and actions before decision making
- Inform the public of proposed federal activities that might affect environmental quality
- Encourage and facilitate public involvement in the decisionmaking process.

## WHAT IS AN EIS?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most detailed analysis prescribed by the regulations implementing NEPA. An EIS is a detailed public document describing:

- A proposed action
- All alternative actions that were considered
- Environmental impacts of implementing the proposed action and reasonable alternatives.

## **Steps in the EIS Process**



