

# NEPA Lessons Learned Questionnaire

Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance  
U.S. Department of Energy

## Preface

Your timely completion of this questionnaire will aid the Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance in meeting its responsibility to foster continuing improvement of the Department of Energy's National Environmental Policy Act process.

In accordance with DOE Order 451.1B, National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program, NEPA Document Managers and NEPA Compliance Officers should fill out a questionnaire (separately or jointly) as soon as possible after completing each environmental impact statement (EIS) and environmental assessment (EA). Other document preparation team members are encouraged to also submit a questionnaire. The questionnaire is designed to structure your responses, but you should feel free to attach a statement describing any lessons learned that could benefit other Departmental personnel preparing NEPA documents. (See question #14.) Additional information or questions can also be emailed to Vivian Bowie at [vivian.bowie@hq.doe.gov](mailto:vivian.bowie@hq.doe.gov).

**Note that the final section of the questionnaire is to be filled out by NEPA Document Managers.**

Completed questionnaires should be submitted as soon as possible after completion of the NEPA process. However, questionnaires may be returned at any time to share valuable lessons learned with others. Please transmit the completed electronic questionnaire by filling in the information and pressing the submit button at the bottom. An electronic copy of your answers will be e-mailed to you after your submission. If you cannot submit electronically please return hard copies to: *Vivian M. Bowie, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-54), US Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave, SW., Washington, DC 20585 or fax: (202) 586-7031.*

\* Required

## General Information

First Name: \*

Last Name: \*

Email Address: \*

Organization \*

Reporter's Position: \*

NEPA Compliance Officer

NEPA Document Manager

Contractor

Legal Counsel

Project Manager

Other:

DOE NEPA Document Title: \*

DOE NEPA Document Number:

DOE/EA-

DOE/EIS-

Would you like to keep the source of this information confidential? \*

Yes

No

## Schedule

1. Was a schedule initially established for the NEPA process for this project?

Yes

No

2. Was the EA or EIS completed on schedule?

Yes

No

N/A

2a. What measures facilitated timely completion of the EA or EIS?

2b. What circumstances or issues made timely completion difficult?

2c. Were there any especially effective (or ineffective) procedures used to keep the document on schedule?

3. Was the NEPA process integrated with the project planning process and started early enough to avoid being on the critical path?

Yes

No

3a. If no, please explain:

## Content

4. Describe any problems or innovative approaches used regarding the following areas of the process:

4a. Scoping:

4b. Data Collection:

4c. impact analysis/methodology:

## Process

5. What measures facilitated or inhibited effective DOE teamwork in the preparation of the EA/EIS?

6. What measures facilitated or inhibited effective teamwork between DOE and contractors?

7. Describe what aspects of the public participation process you found to be successful or not successful:  
Focus on the process not the public reaction(s) to the project.

8. Please briefly describe public reaction(s) to the NEPA process.

9. What guidance needs were identified? (e.g., needed enhancements to guidance in the Recommendations for the Preparation of Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements)

10. Did resource availability hinder the NEPA document preparation?

Yes

No

10a. If yes, please identify the specific resources that were lacking:

	Yes	No	N/A
Staff:			
Funding:			
Other:			

10b. If yes, please explain in what way these resources were lacking:

## Usefulness

11. How was this NEPA process used in agency planning and decision making for the project? Did the NEPA process facilitate informed and sound decision making? Please explain.

12. Was the environment protected or enhanced as a consequence of the NEPA process for this project?

13. Please rate the effectiveness of the NEPA process with respect to protection of the environment or influence on decision making for this project: On the 0-5 scale below: 5 = using NEPA as an important planning tool, and 0 = viewing the NEPA process as just "another permit" for a decision already made.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Worst							Best

13a. Please explain the basis for your rating in 13 above.

14. Use this space to report anything not covered by this questionnaire that may be useful to others about what worked and what did not.

15. Please indicate whether you recommend that we consider using this NEPA process as a feature article/case study in the Lessons Learned Quarterly Report.

Yes

No

**The remaining sections of this form are to be completed by the NEPA Document Manager or Compliance Officer.**

### Milestone dates for Environmental Assessments:

16a. Date of NEPA determination:

16b. Was the draft EA made available for public comment?  
If yes, provide the comment dates:

Yes

No

16c. Start:

16d. End:

16e. Date EA was approved:

16f. Date of NEPA Decision: (e.g. finding of no significant impact or need for EIS)

16g. Date EA was distributed:

## Cooperating Agency Participation

18. For this EA or EIS, which other federal, state, or local agencies were identified as having jurisdiction by law or special expertise?

18a. Which of these became cooperating agencies?

18b. Was a memorandum of understanding developed?

Yes

No

18c. What role did the cooperating agencies have?

18d. Do you have lessons learned (what worked, what didn't work) regarding your experience in working with cooperating agencies?

Yes

No

If "Yes", Please explain:

19. Did any tribes or tribal organizations participate as consulting governments or under other arrangements? If yes, identify the tribe/organization and its role.

Yes

No

If "Yes", Please explain:

20. Did any agencies decline a DOE invitation to become a cooperating agency?

Yes

No

20a. If yes, which ones?

20b. Why?

Candidate agency lacked special expertise or jurisdiction by law

Candidate agency lacked authority to enter into an agreement with the lead agency

Potential or active cooperating agency lacked agreement with the lead agency

Potential or active cooperating agency lacked capacity to participate

Other (specify in narrative, e.g., agency preferred consulting relationship, reason unknown)

21. Did DOE reject any agency's request to become a cooperating agency?

Yes

No

21a. If Yes, which agency.

21b. Why?

Candidate agency lacked special expertise or jurisdiction by law

Candidate agency lacked authority to enter into an agreement with the lead agency

Potential or active cooperating agency lacked agreement with the lead agency

Potential or active cooperating agency lacked capacity to participate

Other (specify in narrative, e.g., agency preferred consulting relationship, reason unknown)

22. Was any cooperating agency relationship terminated before the EA or EIS was completed?

Yes

No

22a. If yes, why?

### 23. NEPA Process Costs

The following questions are associated with categories of costs incurred during EA or EIS preparation.

a. Was the document prepared in-house by Federal staff only?      Yes      No

b. Were the document preparation costs paid for by an applicant or other interested party?

Yes

No

c. EA/EIS Document Preparation Costs (\$ in Thousands)

NEPA Support Contractor Cost      \$

M & O Contractor Cost      \$

Total NEPA Contractor Cost      \$

**Thank you for completing this NEPA questionnaire.**