



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
New England District

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process

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A **Notice of Intent** to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is published in the Federal Register. This is a formal announcement of the EIS process which begins with scoping. Public notices are also prepared.

Scoping is the process for determining the scope of issues (range of actions, alternatives and impacts) to be addressed and for identifying significant issues that would be analyzed in-depth in the EIS. There is no set process for carrying out scoping, but it's typically done in a public meeting format. Although the public is asked to provide any further written comments 30 days after the scoping meetings, scoping of issues continues throughout the development of the EIS. Scoping is held usually no earlier than 30 days after the Notice of Intent is published.

All **existing relevant data** is then collected and reviewed to address issues discussed during scoping. **Alternatives** are developed, and **data gaps** identified and assessed to develop data collection needs. **Field studies** are conducted as appropriate to fill data gaps.

The **Draft EIS** and associated Appendices are prepared and sent out for public review and comment. The public comment period is at least 45 days. A **Notice of Availability** is published in the Federal Register. **Public meeting(s)** are held no earlier than 15 days from the publication of the Federal Register notice.

The **Final EIS** is prepared based on the public review and comment. It is provided to the public for 30 days. Responses to comments on the Draft EIS are included in the Final EIS.

A **Record of Decision** is then prepared based on the Final EIS findings.

(Based on Council on Environmental Quality regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500 thru 1508 Procedures for Implementing NEPA, Corps of Engineers, 33 CFR Parts 230 and 325).