



ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS,  
AND ENVIRONMENT

## ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400

MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Release of Enterprise-Wide Department of Defense Procedures Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act

On April 11, 2025, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) published the Final Rule for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. Following the Final Rule, the CEQ directed each Federal agency to repeal any existing NEPA regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations and to develop their own NEPA implementing procedures.

On June 30, 2025, ASD(EI&E) published the DoD NEPA Implementing Procedures, to cover NEPA compliance and implementation for all of DoD, including DoD Components and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works (attached). The DoD NEPA procedures intend to establish a coordinated, consistent, predictable, and timely preparation of environmental reviews. The Military Departments and DoD Agencies and Field Activities subsequently repealed their respective NEPA implementing regulations and procedures.

The Military Departments, DoD Components, OSD offices, USACE Civil Works, and field activities are hereby directed to follow the DoD NEPA Implementing Procedures for actions meeting the definition of a “major Federal action” as amended by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and codified in the amended NEPA statute (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.). These procedures ensure that DoD planning and decision-making that may have an impact on the environment is based on scientific information, helping to avoid unintended consequences and reduce unnecessary risks to mission readiness.

- a. Prior to initiating any NEPA actions, including preparation of a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX), DoD Components must first assess the proposed action to determine if it does meet the requirements of a “major Federal action” as defined in 42 U.S. Code § 4336e(10)(A). If a proposed action is not a major Federal action, prepare a record of no major Federal action and no additional documentation is required.
- b. All proposed major Federal actions must then be assessed to ensure that the proper level of NEPA documentation is prepared, initially to identify any appropriate CATEXs, where more detailed Environmental Assessments (EAs) or Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) may not be necessary.
- c. Where more detailed analysis is required, approval by an Assistant Secretary of a Military Department or Director equivalent in a Defense Component Agency is required to initiate an EIS and to sign Records of Decisions to ensure that EISs are prepared when necessary.

DoD Components may use CATEXs listed in the DoD NEPA Implementing Procedures without the need for interagency consultation and adoption. This streamlined procedure supports mission readiness across the enterprise. CATEXs are available on the DoD Environment, Safety & Occupational Health Network and Information Exchange (DENIX) webpage [<https://www.denix.osd.mil/nepa/>]. CEQ is developing guidance on developing CATEXs, adopting other agency CATEXs, and publishing notifications. DoD will provide guidance as necessary and is working to provide automated access as part of DoD's Permitting Technology Implementation Plan.

Implementation for on-going NEPA analyses. For projects undertaking the NEPA review process as of June 30, 2025, DoD Components should continue using their previous NEPA implementing regulations or procedures to complete the process if the review process has completed a Final EIS/EA that has been published or is soon to be published. All other actions, not in final stages as of June 30, 2025, should follow the DoD NEPA Implementing Procedures.

My point of contact is Mr. Terry Bowers, [osd.mc-alex.ousd-a-s-.mbx.nepa@mail.mil](mailto:osd.mc-alex.ousd-a-s-.mbx.nepa@mail.mil) [terry.l.bowers14.civ@mail.mil](mailto:terry.l.bowers14.civ@mail.mil), or 703-693-9447.

Dale R. Marks

Attachment:  
As stated

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