

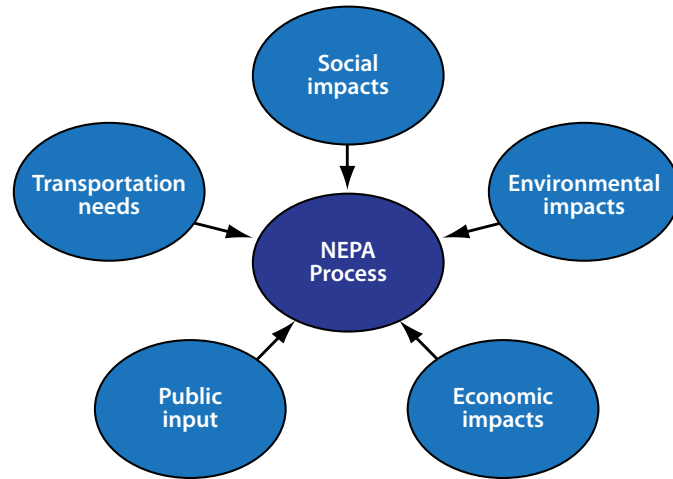
Public Health Impact Assessment in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969: CDC's Review and Commenting Program



HEALTHY COMMUNITY DESIGN

Fact Sheet Series

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) participates in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 through a review and commenting process outlined in the law (P.L. 91-190). CDC's analyses of NEPA-related documents, such as environmental impact statements, are made on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Section 102(2)C of NEPA mandates DHHS to review such documents and comment on the potential public health impact. DHHS delegated these responsibilities to CDC in 1978.



What Is NEPA?

NEPA declared "a national policy [to] encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between people and the environment." This policy obligates public and private entities to formally assess the impact that proposed development plans might have on the surrounding environment, including the human environment.

NEPA Review and Commenting at CDC

During the formal NEPA assessment process, agencies send documents, such as environmental impact statements, to CDC and other appropriate federal agencies for review. CDC provides analysis, comment, and recommendations that emphasize the potential health impacts of the proposed development and the need for strategies to reduce negative health outcomes.

These reviews examine a range of issues that can affect human health, including exposures to hazardous substances, emergency contingency plans, groundwater contamination, air pollution, noise, radiation, contamination of food sources, waste disposal, occupational health and safety, multimodal transportation accommodation such as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and vehicular and pedestrian injury prevention measures.

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