



NASA Sounding Rockets Program Poker Flat Research Range



Environmental Impact Statement

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) establishes a framework for considering environmental values early in the Federal decisionmaking process. When Federal agencies propose projects that may significantly impact the environment, NEPA requires the following steps to be taken before final decisions are made:

- Evaluation and consideration of potential environmental consequences
- Consideration of public and government agency comments

This evaluation is presented in an environmental impact statement (EIS), that:

- Identifies and describes the affected environment
- Evaluates the potential environmental consequences from a range of reasonable alternatives
- Identifies environmental permits and specific mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or reduce environmental impacts

Notice of Intent and Scoping

The EIS process begins with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the *Federal Register*. The NOI provides basic information on the proposed action in preparation for scoping, which is an early and open process for (1) actively bringing the public into the decisionmaking process, (2) determining the scope of issues to be addressed, (3) identifying the major issues related to a proposed action. Scoping begins before any significant analysis is completed. Public participation is an integral part of scoping. The purpose of soliciting public comments is to identify interested parties and relevant issues so they can be considered in the EIS.



Please take this opportunity to:

- Learn about the proposal
- Identify community-specific issues
- Make sure you are included on our mailing list

Public comment period

Comments will be accepted throughout the Draft EIS analysis process; however, for full early consideration of comments to help shape and refine the proposal, please submit comments by **June 1, 2011** to:

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There are numerous opportunities to be involved in the EIS process.

The EIS Timeline

 Opportunities for Public Involvement

Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS
Published in *Federal Register*
April 13, 2011

Public Scoping Period
April 13 – June 1, 2011

Preparation of Draft EIS
2011 – 2012

45-day Draft EIS Review and
Public Comment Period
Tentatively Spring 2012

Preparation of Final EIS
Tentatively 2012

Notice of
Availability of Final EIS
Tentatively Late 2012

30-day Waiting Period
Tentatively Late 2012

Record of Decision
Tentatively Late 2012

Your involvement and participation are essential to the EIS process.

For more information, please visit http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/pfrr_eis.html