

Environmental Considerations

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Requires that we do everything possible to protect and enhance the natural, cultural and human environment. A complete study of all reasonable alternatives (including measures to avoid and minimize impacts) must be prepared, and the results must be made available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made.

Natural Environment

- Geology / Groundwater Resources
- Soils
- Surface Water
- Floodplains
- Wetlands
- Aquatic Life
- Wildlife



Socio-Economic Environment

- Demographics
- Community Facilities
- Economic Setting and Land Use
- Noise
- Air

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Nontidal Wetlands Protection Act

Regulates dredge and fill of Waters of the United States. Guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency for evaluating alternatives require that the Corps of Engineers evaluate the proposed project for environmental impacts (including historic and rare/threatened/endangered species impacts) and select the least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative.

Endangered Species Act

Ensures that actions are not taken to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of such species.

Cultural Environment

- Historic Structures
- Archaeological Sites

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Requires that agencies take into account the effects of a project on properties that are included in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act

Requires that special effort be made to preserve publicly owned public parks and recreation areas, wildlife / waterfowl refuges and historic sites. No project which requires land from these resources may be approved unless 1) there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the land and 2) the action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from such use.

Clean Air Act and Clean Air Act Amendments

An air quality analysis must be performed to determine if there are violations of the State or National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Farmland Protection Policy Act

Requires that federal programs minimize conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses (does not apply to farmland that is zoned or committed (planned) for urban development).

Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)

Requires that agencies identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations.