

consequencies together, such as common timing or geography. An agency may wish to analyze these actions in the same impact statement. It should do so when the best way to assess adequately the combined impacts of similar actions or reasonable alternatives to such actions is to treat them in a single impact statement.

(b) Alternatives, which include:

- (1) No action alternative.
- (2) Other reasonable courses of actions.
- (3) Mitigation measures (not in the proposed action).

(c) Impacts, which may be: (1) Direct; (2) indirect; (3) cumulative.

§ 1508.26 Special expertise.

Special expertise means statutory responsibility, agency mission, or related program experience.

§ 1508.27 Significantly.

Significantly as used in NEPA requires considerations of both context and intensity:

(a) *Context*. This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. For instance, in the case of a site-specific action, significance would usually depend upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant.

(b) *Intensity*. This refers to the severity of impact. Responsible officials must bear in mind that more than one agency may make decisions about partial aspects of a major action. The following should be considered in evaluating intensity:

(1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial.

(2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.

(3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and

scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

(4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

(5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

(6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

(7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.

(8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

(9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

(10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

[43 FR 56003, Nov. 29, 1978; 44 FR 874, Jan. 3, 1979]

§ 1508.28 Tiering.

Tiering refers to the coverage of general matters in broader environmental impact statements (such as national program or policy statements) with subsequent narrower statements or environmental analyses (such as regional or basinwide program statements or ultimately site-specific statements) incorporating by reference the general discussions and concentrating solely on the issues specific to the statement

Index

subsequently prepared. Tiering is appropriate when the sequence of statements or analyses is:

(a) From a program, plan, or policy environmental impact statement to a program, plan, or policy statement or analysis of lesser scope or to a site-specific statement or analysis.

(b) From an environmental impact statement on a specific action at an early stage (such as need and site selection) to a supplement (which is preferred) or a subsequent statement or analysis at a later stage (such as environmental mitigation). Tiering in such cases is appropriate when it helps the lead agency to focus on the issues which are ripe for decision and exclude from consideration issues already decided or not yet ripe.

Index to Parts 1500 Through 1508

EDITORIAL NOTE: This listing is provided for information purposes only. It is compiled and kept up-to-date by the Council on Environmental Quality, and is revised through July 1, 2006.

INDEX

Act	1508.2.
Action	1508.18, 1508.25.
Action-forcing	1500.1, 1502.1.
Adoption	1500.4(n), 1500.5(h), 1506.3.
Affected Environment	1502.10(f), 1502.15.
Affecting	1502.3, 1508.3.
Agency Authority	1500.6.
Agency Capability	1501.2(a), 1507.2.
Agency Compliance	1507.1.
Agency Procedures	1505.1, 1507.3.
Agency Responsibility	1506.5.
Alternatives	1501.2(c), 1502.2, 1502.10(e), 1502.14, 1505.1(e), 1505.2, 1507.2(d), 1508.25(b).
Appendices	1502.10(k), 1502.18, 1502.24.
Applicant	1501.2(d)(1), 1501.4(b), 1501.8(a), 1502.19(b), 1503.1(a)(3), 1504.3(e), 1506.1(d), 1506.5(a), 1506.5(b).
Apply NEPA Early in the Process.	1501.2.
Categorical Exclusion	1500.4(p), 1500.5(k), 1501.4(a), 1507.3(b), 1508.4.
Circulating of Environmental Impact Statement.	1502.19, 1506.3.
Classified Information	1507.3(c).
Clean Air Act	1504.1, 1508.19(a).
Combining Documents	1500.4(o), 1500.5(i), 1506.4.
Commenting	1502.19, 1503.1, 1503.2, 1503.3, 1503.4, 1506.6(f).
Consultation Requirement	1500.4(k), 1500.5(g), 1501.7(a)(6), 1502.25.
Context	1508.27(a).

40 CFR Ch. V (7-1-06 Edition)

INDEX—Continued

Cooperating Agency	1500.5(b), 1501.1(b), 1501.5(c), 1501.5(f), 1501.6, 1503.1(a)(1), 1503.2, 1503.3, 1506.3(c), 1506.5(a), 1508.5.
Cost-Benefit	1502.23.
Council on Environmental Quality.	1500.3, 1501.5(e), 1501.5(f), 1501.6(c), 1502.9(c)(4), 1504.1, 1504.2, 1504.3, 1506.6(f), 1506.9, 1506.10(e), 1506.11, 1507.3, 1508.6, 1508.24.
Cover Sheet	1502.10(a), 1502.11.
Cumulative Impact	1508.7, 1508.25(a), 1508.25(c).
Decisionmaking	1505.1, 1506.1.
Decision points	1505.1(b).
Dependent	1508.25(a).
Draft Environmental Impact Statement.	1502.9(a).
Early Application of NEPA	1501.2.
Economic Effects	1508.8.
Effective Date	1506.12.
Effects	1502.16, 1508.8.
Emergencies	1506.11.
Endangered Species Act	1502.25, 1508.27(b)(9).
Energy	1502.16(e).
Environmental Assessment	1501.3, 1501.4(b), 1501.4(c), 1501.7(b)(3), 1506.2(b)(4), 1506.5(b), 1508.4, 1508.9, 1508.10, 1508.13.
Environmental Consequences	1502.10(g), 1502.16.
Environmental Consultation Requirements.	1500.4(k), 1500.5(g), 1501.7(a)(6), 1502.25, 1503.3(c).
Environmental Documents	1508.10.
Environmental Impact Statement.	1500.4, 1501.4(c), 1501.7, 1501.3, 1502.1, 1502.2, 1502.3, 1502.4, 1502.5, 1502.6, 1502.7, 1502.8, 1502.9, 1502.10, 1502.11, 1502.12, 1502.13, 1502.14, 1502.15, 1502.16, 1502.17, 1502.18, 1502.19, 1502.20, 1502.21, 1502.22, 1502.23, 1502.24, 1502.25, 1506.2(b)(4), 1506.3, 1506.8, 1508.11.
Environmental Protection Agency.	1502.11(f), 1504.1, 1504.3, 1506.7(c), 1506.9, 1506.10, 1508.19(a).
Environmental Review Requirements.	1500.4(k), 1500.5(g), 1501.7(a)(6), 1502.25 1503.3(c).
Expediter	1501.8(b)(2).
Federal Agency	1508.12.
Filing	1506.9.
Final Environmental Impact Statement.	1502.9(b), 1503.1, 1503.4(b).
Finding of No Significant Impact.	1500.3, 1500.4(q), 1500.5(1), 1501.4(e), 1508.13.
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.	1502.25.
Format for Environmental Impact Statement.	1502.10.
Freedom of Information Act	1506.6(f).
Further Guidance	1506.7.
Generic	1502.4(c)(2).
General Services Administration.	1506.8(b)(5).
Geographic	1502.4(c)(1).
Graphics	1502.8.
Handbook	1506.7(a).