

What is NEPA Scoping?

Scoping is part of the EIS process through which a federal agency describes a proposed action and possible alternatives. The agency then seeks input from other agencies, organizations, and the public on potentially affected resources, environmental issues to be considered, and the agency's planning approach to the analysis.



What is the Purpose of this Public Scoping Meetings?

This public scoping meeting is design to solicit public and agency comments regarding the issues the EIS should consider. This scoping meeting aims to:

- Provide an overview of the Skagit River General Investigation Study
- Describe the NEPA process

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Skagit County request input from interested people, organizations, and agencies on:

- Issues of Concern
- Project Alternatives
- Potential Mitigation
- Possible Environmental Impacts

We encourage you to provide your input during the public scoping and public review periods

How Do I Provide My Comments?

- Use the comment form provided tonight
- Provide a verbal comment to the court reporter tonight
- Mail comments to Hannah Hadley at:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755
- Email comments to:
Hannah.f.Hadley@usace.army.mil

**Please provide comments by
August 29, 2011**



Thank you for coming!

We look forward to receiving you input!



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Seattle District



What is NEPA...



**...and the Public
Scoping Process?**

What is NEPA?

NEPA stands for the “**National Environmental Policy Act**” and is:

- A statutory requirement triggered by major federal actions that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
- A federal law that requires the identification and analysis of potential environmental effects before those actions take place
- A “full disclosure” law with provisions for public access to and public participation in the federal decision-making process
- A mechanism for evaluating potential environmental impacts and incorporating public involvement into the federal decision-making process



Legislative, Regulatory, and Interagency Framework Governing NEPA

- NEPA of 1969: Public Law 91-190
- 40 CFR 1500-1508: Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineering Regulation 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing NEPA
- Based upon the legislative, regulatory, and interagency framework governing NEPA, the USACE, in cooperation with Skagit County is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Skagit River Basin

What is an EIS?

An **EIS** stands for “**Environmental Impact Statement**” and :

- Presents the results of analysis of the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and alternatives
- Is prepared when a proposed action could cause significant environmental effects or if the proposed action would generate significant public interest
- Includes a description of baseline conditions for all resource areas against which effects of the proposed action and alternatives are evaluated
- Identifies potential consequences and any appropriate mitigation (measures to reduce adverse impacts)
- Includes opportunities for public involvement



Steps in Preparing an EIS

- Define the proposed action, alternatives, and decisions to be made
- Identify what needs to be analyzed (scoping); refine the proposed action and alternatives
- Gather data, conduct analysis, and identify environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives
- Publish a Draft EIS for public and agency review



Public Involvement Opportunities

- Public Scoping Meeting (oral or written comments)
- Draft EIS Public Review Period (written comments)
- Draft EIS Public Meeting (oral or written comments)
- Final EIS Public Review Period (written comments)

Public notices will be published when the Draft and Final EISs are released for public review.