



# Environmental Reviews with the NRC

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# **THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

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## OVERVIEW

- **NRC's Mission**
- **Acts and Regulations Governing Environmental Reviews**
- **Environmental Review Process Overview**

## **NRC'S MISSION**

The NRC licenses and regulates the Nation's civilian use of radioactive materials to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety and to promote the common defense and security and to protect the environment.

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## What does NEPA require?

- NEPA requires that government agencies consider the environmental consequences of proposed actions in order to inform the public about their decision making.

## What do NRC regulations require?

- NRC's NEPA-implementing regulations in Part 51 require the staff to issue an EIS for major federal actions significantly affecting the environment.



NATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY ACT  
(NEPA)

## MAJOR ACTS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 1970)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA, 1973)
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA, 1966)
- Clean Water / Air Act
- FAST-41
- President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
- 10 CFR Part 51- Environmental Protection Regulations For Domestic Licensing And Related Regulatory Functions



# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS OVERVIEW

## 1. NEPA Review

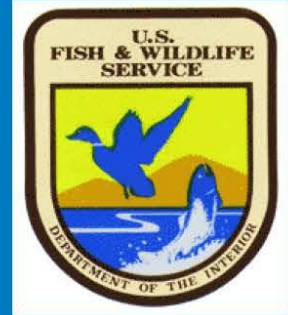
- Categorical Exclusions (§ 51.22)
- Environmental Assessment (§ 51.21) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI, § 51.32)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS, § 51.20)
  - Scoping (§ 51.29)
  - Hard look at resources affected (NEPA Section 102)
  - Draft EIS (§ 51.71)
  - Final EIS (§ 51.91)
  - Record of Decision (§ 51.103)



## REVIEW PROCESS CONTINUED

- **Publish *Federal Register* notice**
- **Public scoping period with advertised and facilitated meetings held in plant vicinity**
- **Publish *Federal Register* notice**
- **Public comment period on Draft EIS for 75 days with advertised and facilitated public meetings held in plant vicinity**
- **Publish *Federal Register* notice**

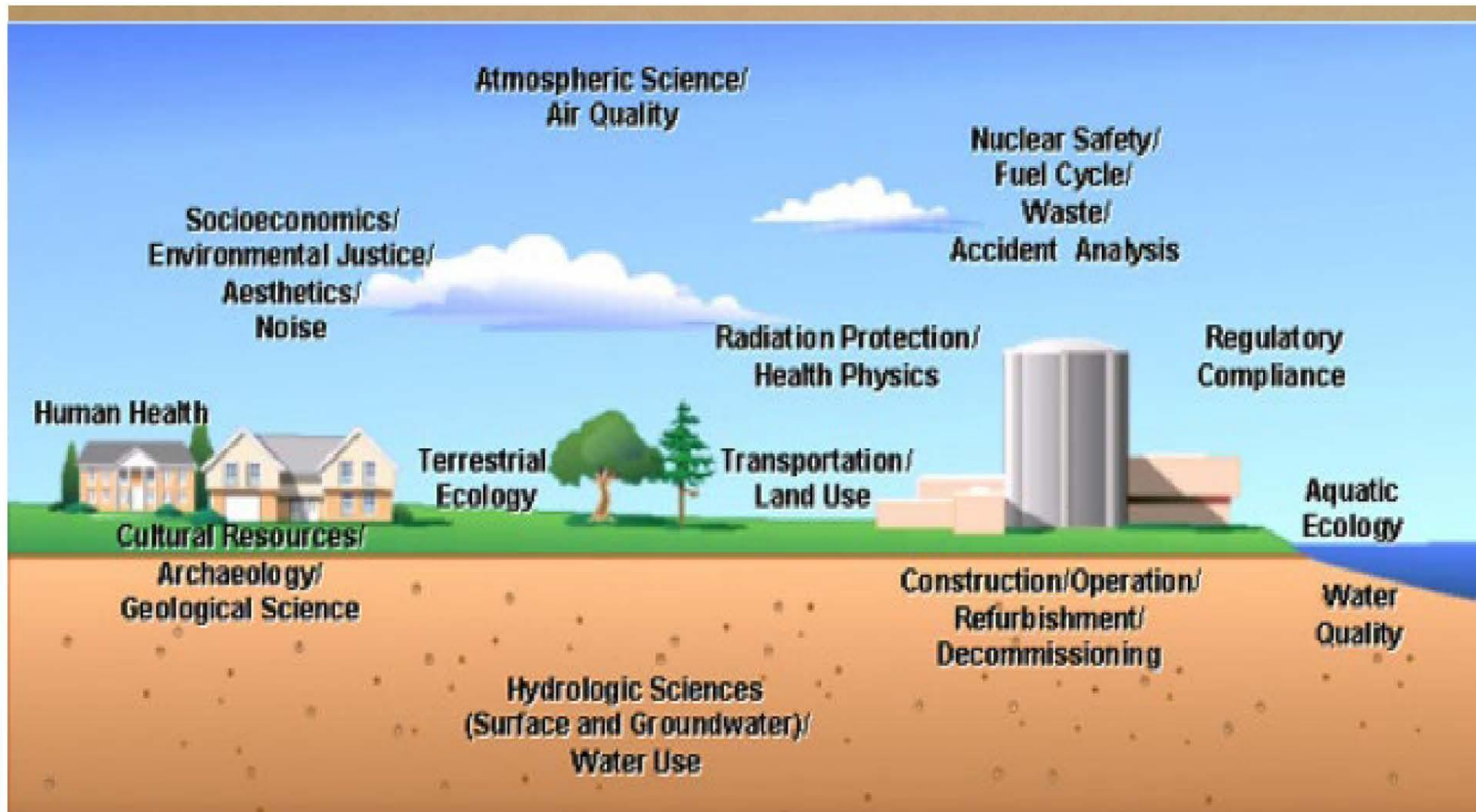
# COORDINATION & CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



**NATHPO**  
National Association  
of Tribal Historic  
Preservation Officers



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ASSESSED







NRIC

National  
Reactor  
Innovation  
Center

Jason Andrus,

Manager of Advanced Nuclear  
Facility Safety Group





# Thank you!

All proceedings from this webinar will be posted under Resources on the NRIC website.

Contact: [NRIC@inl.gov](mailto:NRIC@inl.gov)

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