

NEPA TASK FORCE Recommendations to CEQ	How	Task Force Priority
General Recommendations:		
Establish a professional position, or positions, to provide technical NEPA process consultation and better coordinate advice and guidance to agencies about improving NEPA implementation and environmental analyses	FTE(s)	High
(1) Discuss important NEPA case law and issues of interest, (2) recommend any CEQ guidance needing clarification and (3) facilitate a consensus on addressing legal issues	Annual NEPA legal forum	High
Provide existing guidance by topic area and supplement when new guidance is issued	Handbook Web publication	High
Specific Recommendations		
Clarify and promote consistent practices for categorical exclusion: • development • public review • approval • use • documentation	Guidance	High #1
Issue guidance to: • Recognize the broad range in size of environmental assessments (EAs); • Clarify that size should be commensurate with magnitude and complexity of environmental issues, public concerns, and project scope • Describe the minimum requirements for short EAs • Clarify the requirements for public involvement, alternatives, and mitigation for actions that warrant longer EAs including those with mitigated findings of no significant impact	Guidance	High #2 Note 2 parts
Reiterate the minimum statutory and regulatory requirements for a short EA	Clarifying Memo	High #2

Identify, develop and share methods of engaging federal, state, local, and tribal partners in training on: • NEPA principles • agency missions • collaboration skills	Federal Advisory Committee to advise CEQ	High #3 Note 4 parts
Develop guidance on the components of successful collaborative agreements and provide templates applicable to various situations and stages of the NEPA process	Federal Advisory Committee to advise CEQ	High #3
Develop training for the public on NEPA requirements and effective public involvement	Federal Advisory Committee to advise CEQ	High #3
Develop a “Citizen’s Guide to NEPA	Federal Advisory Committee to advise CEQ	High #3
Develop guidance or change regulations to clearly define the different uses of programmatic analyses, tiering, and associated documentation	Federal Advisory Committee to advise CEQ	High #4 Note 2 parts
Develop guidance or change regulations to define the appropriate scope of programmatic and tiered analyses and documents: • range of issues • depth of analyses • level of description	Federal Advisory Committee to advise CEQ	High #4
Integrate the NEPA process with environmental management systems.	Adaptive management work group	High #5 Note the 3 parts
Initiate a pilot study to identify, implement, and document representative actions using an adaptive management approach during the NEPA process to identify aspects of the analyses and documentation requiring CEQ guidance or regulatory action	Adaptive management work group	High #5
Assess the applicability of NEPA guidance and regulations to adaptive management	Adaptive management work group	High #5
Clarify appropriate roles of communications and information dissemination technologies in the NEPA process to enhance public involvement	Guidance	High

Coordinate with interagency groups re: protocols and standards pertaining to data, information management, modeling tools, and information security	Interagency NEPA technical working group	High
Promote consistent policies for dealing with sensitive information	CEQ lead interagency development of a mechanism to develop policies	High
Review agency quality assurance and quality control for NEPA analyses and documentation	CEQ lead interagency development of internal agency review protocol	Medium
Sponsor forums to integrate federal and state NEPA requirements	CEQ	Medium
Develop guidance to: - include potential future partners, stakeholders, and cooperating agencies in early discussions on the programmatic process - identify and effectively and efficiently address their issues in subsequent tiered NEPA documents	Guidance	Medium
Explain the relationship between the programmatic document and future tiered documents: - who will be involved - at what stage - how potential issues will be addressed - what are temporal and spatial scales of analysis	Guidance	Medium
Specify criteria to determine age when a programmatic NEPA analysis and document requires supplementation.	Guidance	Medium
Integrate the NEPA process with Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation, National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 coordination, Clean Air Act conformity requirements, and Clean Water Act total maximum daily load and Section 404 requirements	Handbook & Sponsor Forums	Medium
Explore the use of a facilitated, collaborative process to develop and refine alternatives and outline how agencies can document the process of refining a proposal and conforming to CEQ regulations	Working Group and Guidance	Medium
Develop tools for when and how social, cultural and economic analysis should be performed	Handbook	Medium
Assess the effectiveness of alternatives for resolving disputes during and after the NEPA process – including disputes over environmental mitigation and project implementation	Study	Medium