

# NEPA PROCESS OVERVIEW

## NEW HAVEN HARBOR NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT STUDY

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*“The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.”*

New Haven Harbor Improvement Project  
NEPA Process Overview



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

- A federal law that requires the identification and analysis of potential environmental and socioeconomic effects before those actions take place.
- A statutory requirement triggered by major federal actions that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
- 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.



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PURPOSE

- Identify and Evaluate Alternatives
- Provide Baseline Conditions for All Alternatives
- Analyze Environmental and Socioeconomic Impacts of the Alternatives
- Allow opportunities for Public Involvement
  
- Demonstrate Compliance with:
  - NEPA
  - Clean Water Act
  - Clean Air Act
  - Coastal Zone Management Act
  - Endangered Species Act
  - Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act
  - National Historic Preservation Act
  - All other applicable Acts, Executive Orders, and Memorandums



## MAJOR STEPS IN THE NEPA/EIS PROCESS

- Notice of Intent
- Scoping
- Baseline Data Gathering
- Impact Analysis
- Draft EIS Publication
- Public Review and Comment
- Final EIS Publication
- Record of Decision



## EIS OUTLINE

- Executive Summary
- Purpose, Need, and Scope
- Proposed Action
- Alternatives
- Affected Environment
- Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences
- Compliance
- Documentation of Public Participation
- List of Preparers



# GENERAL SCHEDULE



- Scoping Meetings – January 2017
- Alternatives Informational Meeting – September 2017
- Draft EIS – April 2018
- Public Meeting/Hearing – May 2018
- Final EIS – July 2019
- Record of Decision – November 2019





# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Scoping Meeting
- Alternatives Workshop
- Public Review of Draft EIS
- Public Hearing/Meeting
- Fact Sheets
- Media Relations



# TODAY'S PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

- Provide Comments on the Proposed Study

## Example Topics (NOT LIMITED TO):

- Environmental Issues
  - ❖ Earth Resources
  - ❖ Water Resources
  - ❖ Air Resources
  - ❖ Vegetation, Wildlife, and Wetlands
  - ❖ Hazardous and Toxic Wastes
- Socioeconomic Issues
  - ❖ Land Use
  - ❖ Public Health and Safety
  - ❖ Noise
  - ❖ Historical and Cultural Resources
  - ❖ Visual Environment
  - ❖ Public Utilities
  - ❖ Transportation

- How Do I Provide My Comments?

- Use the comment sheet provided tonight

- Provide a verbal comment or question to the panel tonight

- Email comments to:

**todd.a.randall@usace.army.mil**

- Mail comments to:

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New England District  
Attn: Todd Randall  
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- **Please Provide Comments By February 23, 2017**

