



## Department of Energy

West Valley Demonstration Project

### Policy, Procedure, and Plan

NO: WVDP-258-01 REV: 3 DATE: 02/27/23

SUBJECT: Policy on the National Environmental Policy Act

APPROVED:

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DOE-WVDP Regulatory Strategy  
and Environmental Team Lead

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## 1.0 Policy

The U. S. Department of Energy West Valley Demonstration Project (DOE-WVDP) shall perform all activities in accordance with the letter and spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.)<sup>1</sup>. The NEPA establishes a national policy to ensure that consideration is given to environmental values and factors in federal planning and decision making. The Act embodies a hierarchical system of environmental review for evaluating and documenting proposed actions that may potentially impact the environment. Reflecting least to greatest significance, the levels of evaluation and documentation are: 1) categorical exclusion (CX); 2) environmental assessment (EA); and 3) environmental impact statement (EIS).

The DOE-WVDP shall use DOE Environmental Management Consolidated Business Center (EMCBC) procedures when performing and documenting environmental reviews required by NEPA regulations. The DOE-WVDP may, as appropriate, substitute WVDP site-specific documents (e.g. CX environmental questionnaire) that are determined to be the functional equivalent of those found in the EMCBC procedures (see references in Section 3.2) by the WVDP NEPA Compliance Officer (NCO). Procedure SAP-OTSAM-451B-01 is used to establish the level of evaluation for assessing and documenting actions under NEPA. Once the appropriate level of review has been determined, procedures SAP-OTSAM-451 B-02, SAP-OTSAM-451 B-03, and SAP-OTSAM-451 B-04 define the CX, EA, and EIS implementing procedure, respectively.

The DOE-WVDP shall appraise the adequacy of NEPA documentation prepared for the WVDP to assure that DOE NEPA requirements and expectations have been met, pursuant to procedure PP-OTSAM-451B-06 (Quality Assurance Plans). Quality is the sum of features and characteristics of a product or service that bear on its ability to satisfy implied or stated requirements. Quality NEPA documentation is documentation that conforms to DOE NEPA requirements and expectations.

The NEPA process followed by the DOE-WVDP requires individuals interested in or potentially affected by DOE-WVDP activities be informed early in the process of those intended activities. Specifically, DOE-WVDP shall involve the general public, interest groups, and other WVDP stakeholders in the review of actions that have the potential to impact the environment (i.e., in the review of EAs and EISs), as specified in procedure SAP-OTSAM-451 B-05. WVDP stakeholders include, but are not limited to, private citizens, state governments, local governments, tribal governments, civic and community organizations, business and labor groups, environmental groups, and independent experts from the scientific, technical, and academic communities. Public participation is an integral (and legal) part of the DOE NEPA process and serves to gather a diverse collection of

options, perspectives, and values from the broadest spectrum of the public, which enables the DOE to make better and more informed decisions.

## **2.0 Scope**

This policy applies to all DOE-WVDP actions affecting the quality of the environment.

## **3.0 Requirements/References**

### **3.1 Requirements**

- 3.1.1 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- 3.1.2 DOE P 451.1, *National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program*, December 21, 2017 (Cancels DOE O 451.1B Change 3)
- 3.1.3 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations
- 3.1.4 10 CFR Part 1021, National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures

### **3.2 References**

- 3.2.1 SAP-OTSAM-451 B-01, Rev. 1, Establishing the Level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review and Documentation
- 3.2.2 SAP-OTSAM-451 B-02, Rev. 1, Implementing Categorical Exclusion (CX) Determination
- 3.2.3 SAP-OTSAM-4518-03, Rev. 1, Following the Environmental Assessment (EA) Process
- 3.2.4 SAP-OTSAM-4518-04, Rev. 1, NEPA Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) Process
- 3.2.5 SAP-OTSAM-451 B-05, Rev. 1, Conducting Public Participation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- 3.2.6 PP-OTSAM-4518-06, Rev. 0, Preparing Quality Assurance (QA) Plans for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

## **4.0 Definitions**

- 4.1 Refer to Glossary of Terms Used in the DOE NEPA Documents dated September 1998, located at <http://energy.gov/nepa/downloads/glossary-terms-used-doe-nepa-documents>
- 4.2 Refer to QP-253-02, "Glossary of Terms and Definitions"

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
**RECORD OF REVISION**

**DOCUMENT**

If there are changes to the controlled document, the revision number increases by one. Indicate changes by one of the following:

- Placing a vertical black line in the margin adjacent to sentence or paragraph that was revised.
- Placing the words GENERAL REVISION at the beginning of the text.

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Revision On Pages	Dated
0	Original Issue		11-20-1996
1	Connects implementation of the DOE WVDP NEPA policy to the EMCBC NEPA implementing procedures and updates the requirements and references	All	07/02/12
2	Minor revision to allow for the use of WVDP site-specific documents and updates to the references	1-2	02/24/16
3	Minor revision to update text and new EMCBC references.	1-2	02/27/23