

NEPA

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History of EA Preparation

- Usually written by project team member
- Some assistance from ES&H Section
- Requires extensive participation by DOE as sponsoring agency (their document)
- Timelines for EA Preparation

Recent Experience

- NOvA EA took long time
- LTA coordination from beginning
- Coordination compounded by multiple parties involved & DOE NEPA Compliance residing in Chicago Ops Office
- Resolution of DOE comments on draft EA problematic

New Approach Needed

- Learn from mistakes in NOvA EA Prep
 - DOE particularly wants single POC at lab
 - Likewise, we want single POC at DOE
- NEPA Compliance Officer authority in DOE/FSO rather than DOE/CH
- Explore feasibility of NEPA-experienced EA writers rather than project-affiliated staff
- Run EA development more like a sub-element on project

Current Plans

- New approach will take some planning effort
- Griff reassigned to “Environmental Planning Officer” job (soon)
- Will be attached to Ed Temple’s organization
- Considered full-time job for next year; then make recommendation

Reminder of EA Process

- Environmental Worksheet; results in letter to DOE recommending CX, EA, or EIS
- Project X will likely be EA.
- Public Scoping probably not required for this project but potential for new citizen's task force that could tell us what people are most concerned about
- Strategy planning up front between DOE & Lab single POC's to determine what needs to be addressed in EA; what agencies consulted, etc.
- Schedule developed for compiling needed documentation, drafting, and reviewing EA.
- FONSI published in FR; Review & Comment Period
- Final publication of EA w/ accompanying FONSI