

# CEQ's Approach to Cumulative Effects

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## Cumulative Effects Analysis

### ◆ Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act

– Jan 97 handbook  
<http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/ccenepa/ccenepa.htm>

### ◆ Consideration of Past Actions in Cumulative Effects Analysis

– Jun 05 guidance memo:  
<http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/guidance.html>

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## "Aligning NEPA Processes with Environmental Management Systems - A Guide for NEPA and EMS Practitioners"

[http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/ntf/NEPA\\_EMS\\_Guide\\_final\\_Apr\\_2007.pdf](http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/ntf/NEPA_EMS_Guide_final_Apr_2007.pdf)

◆ An EMS is a policy tool to help manage environmental issues. It provides a framework to identify, implement, monitor, and achieve organizational goals and requirements.

◆ NEPA is a legal requirement that defines the process to identify environmental impacts of certain proposals for agency action and to address the impacts. This includes requirements for prioritization, reporting, and public involvement.

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## NEPA/EMS synergy

- ◆ NEPA can help where agencies have the most trouble with EMS: impact identification and prioritization.
- ◆ EMS can help where agencies have the most trouble with NEPA: project monitoring and follow up actions. The EMS requires commitments to prevention of pollution and continual improvement, which includes initiating corrective action where intended goals are not being met.

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### *Executive Order 13423 - Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*

*(January 24, 2007)*

The head of each agency shall ...

- (a) implement within the agency **sustainable practices** for (i) energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions avoidance or reduction, and petroleum products use reduction, (ii) renewable energy, including bioenergy, (iii) water conservation, (iv) acquisition, (v) pollution and waste prevention and recycling, (vi) reduction or elimination of acquisition and use of toxic or hazardous chemicals, (vii) high performance construction, lease, operation, and maintenance of buildings, (viii) vehicle fleet management, and (ix) electronic equipment management
- (b) implement within the agency environmental management systems (EMS) **at all appropriate organizational levels** to ensure (i) use of EMS as the primary management approach for addressing environmental aspects of internal agency operations and activities

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## Other NEPA Task Force Recommendations Being Implemented:

- ◆ Adaptive Management and NEPA:  
Interagency work group to develop a "best practices" handbook on environmental management systems and adaptive management processes with case studies that highlight their successful characteristics and use during the NEPA process.
- ◆ Harmonizing NEPA and other Laws:  
Develop a handbook to address the coordination of NEPA with one or more major environmental consultation and coordination requirements (e.g., Clean Water Act; Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act).

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# Questions?

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