

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its political subdivisions in planning and implementing an integrated strategy for protecting and promoting cultural, historic and natural resources. The Commission reports to the Secretary of the Interior and to Congress.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission was established by Public Law 100-692, November 18, 1988 and extended through Public Law 105-355, November 13, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: C. Allen Sachse, Executive Director, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission, 1 South Third Street, 8th Floor, Easton PA 18042, (610) 923-3548.

Dated: August 28, 2003.

C. Allen Sachse,

Executive Director, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[516 DM 1-15]

National Environmental Policy Act Revised Implementing Procedures

AGENCY: Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed revised procedures.

SUMMARY: This notice proposes revised Departmental policies and procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, Executive Order 11514, as amended, Executive Order 12114, and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations. This action is necessary to update these procedures and to make them available to the public on the Department's Internet site. When adopted, these procedures will be published in Part 516 of the Departmental Manual (DM) and will be added to the Electronic Library of Interior Policies (ELIPS). ELIPS is located at: <http://elips.doi.gov/>. For comparison purposes, the 1980 chapters that are currently in force presently appear at this Web site. These proposed procedures do not change any bureau procedures (*see* **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below).

DATES: Submit comments on or before October 6, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to: Department of the Interior; NEPA Revised Implementing Procedures; c/o The Content Analysis Team; US Forest Service; P.O. Box 221150; Salt Lake

City, UT 84122. Comments may also be faxed to the Content Analysis Team at: 801-517-1015. Finally comments may be e-mailed to the team at: DOINEPA@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terence N. Martin, Team Leader, Natural Resources Management; Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance; 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. Telephone: 202-208-5465. e-mail: terry_martin@ios.doi.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These procedures address policy as well as procedure in order to assure compliance with the spirit and intent of NEPA. They update our policies and procedures in order to stay current with changing environmental laws and programs of the Federal government. It is the intent of these procedures to continue to set forth one set of broad Departmental directives and instructions to all bureaus and offices of the Department to follow in their NEPA compliance activities. In the current chapters, the Department's bureaus published appendices to Chapter 6 to further describe each bureau's NEPA compliance program. In order to more efficiently handle these appendices in the ELIPS system, it has been decided to rename them as new chapters to this DM part. Therefore, this publication expands the chapter numbering system from 516 DM 8 through 516 DM 15 to contain the old bureau appendices. These chapters have already received public review and are final. They may be viewed and downloaded from ELIPS. Comments are not being requested on these chapters. Chapters 8 through 15 may be revised in the future to further conform to the revised Chapters 1-7. If so, they will each appear for comment in the **Federal Register** at the appropriate time. In accordance with 1507.3 of the CEQ Regulations, this Department is consulting with CEQ and is hereby requesting public review and comment on the proposed procedures.

Background: On August 28, 2000, the Department published these procedures in draft form and invited the public to make comments. Several reviewers requested a time extension, and a time extension was granted through the close of business on November 13, 2000. That publication has never been made final, and all comments received to date on that publication have been read, analyzed, and considered in the revision process. Internal Departmental review and revision has continued throughout 2001 and 2002. In early 2003, the Department held four listening sessions to seek views and comments on this

process. Those sessions were held in Washington, DC; Denver, CO; Portland, OR; and Anchorage, AK. Again, those comments have been taken into account in revising these chapters. The procedures have also been recirculated in the Department for further review and clearance by each bureau and assistant secretary.

Procedural Requirements: The following list of procedural requirements has been assembled and addressed to contribute to this open review process. Today's publication is a notice of draft, internal Departmental action and not a rulemaking. However, we have addressed the various procedural requirements that are generally applicable to proposed and final rulemaking to show how they would affect this notice if it were a rulemaking.

Regulatory Planning and Review

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993) it has been determined that this action is the implementation of policy and procedures applicable only to the Department of the Interior and not a significant regulatory action. These policies and procedures would not impose a compliance burden on the general economy.

Administrative Procedures Act

This document is not subject to prior notice and opportunity to comment because it is a general statement of policy and procedure [(5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A)]. However, notice and opportunity to comment is required by the CEQ Regulations [40 CFR 1507.3(a)].

Regulatory Flexibility Act

This document is not subject to notice and comment under the Administrative Procedures Act, and, therefore, is not subject to the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). This document provides the Department with policy and procedures under NEPA and does not compel any other party to conduct any action.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

These policies and procedures do not comprise a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. The document will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more and is expected to have no significant economic impacts. Further, it will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions and will