

# The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

*Presentation to  
SRS Citizens Advisory Board  
Facilities Disposition & Site Remediation Committee Update*

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- ◆ **To satisfy an element of the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board Facilities Disposition and Site Remediation Committee Work Plan**

- ◆ CAB – Citizens Advisory Board
- ◆ CFR – Code of Federal Regulation
- ◆ CX – Categorical Exclusion
- ◆ D&D - Deactivation & Decommissioning
- ◆ DNC – Department NEPA Coordinator
- ◆ DOE – Department of Energy
- ◆ EA – Environmental Assessment
- ◆ EEC – Environmental Evaluation Checklist
- ◆ EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
- ◆ FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact
- ◆ HLW – High Level Waste
- ◆ NCO – NEPA Compliance Officer
- ◆ NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
- ◆ ROD – Record of Decision
- ◆ SRS – Savannah River Site
- ◆ TRU - Transuranic

## ◆ NEPA declares a National Environmental Policy

- Signed into law by President Richard Nixon on January 1, 1970
- Requires Federal Agencies to consider environmental values and impacts in their decision-making process before implementing an action
- Provides for public review and input and considers alternative actions for all major federal actions
- Does not preempt other federal laws

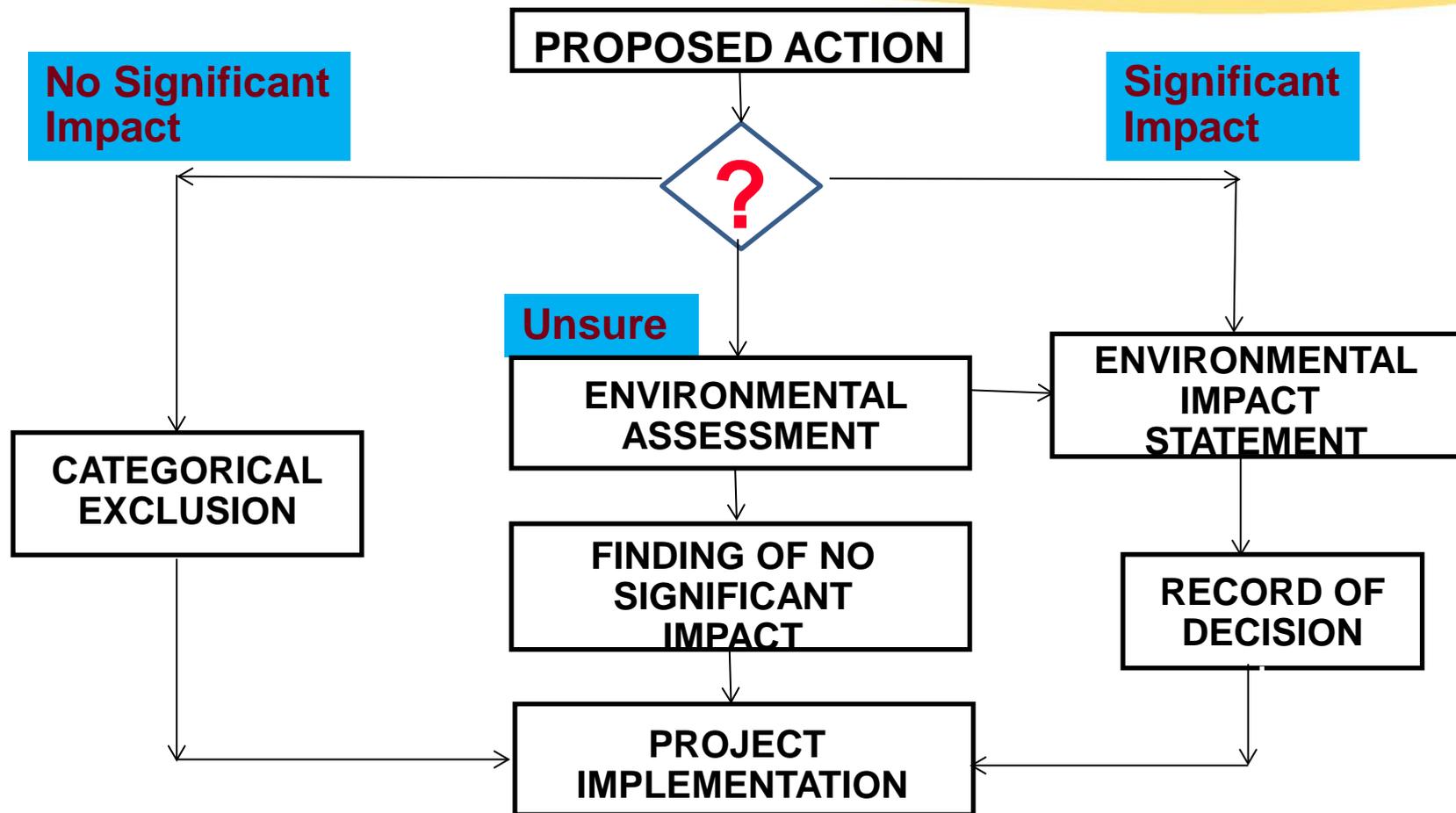
## ◆ “Flow-down” of Requirements

- Federal - Council on Environmental Quality
  - Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Parts 1500-1508 (40 CFR 1500-1508)
    - The basic framework for Federal Agency procedures
- Department of Energy
  - DOE NEPA Regulations – 10 CFR Part 1021
  - DOE Order 451.1B – NEPA Compliance Program
  - DOE Guidance

## ◆ Basic Elements of NEPA Process

- Identify proposed action
- Determine appropriate level of NEPA review
- Prepare required NEPA documentation
- Make “environmental” decision
- Implement project, as well mitigations and monitoring, as required

# The NEPA Process



## ◆ **Categorical Exclusion (CX)**

- Actions that individually or cumulatively, do not have potential for significant environmental impacts
- Lists of actions (by category/class) specified by regulation
- Approved by the DOE NEPA Compliance Officer

## ◆ Environmental Assessment (EA)

- Prepared when it is not certain environmental effects of the proposed action will be significant
- Results in either Finding of No Significant Impact issued or Environmental Impact Statement prepared
- Approved by the DOE Site Manager

## ◆ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- A detailed statement which assesses impacts of major Federal action significantly affecting quality of human environment
  - Preferred Alternative
- Results in Agency issuing Record of Decision
  - Must state mitigation measures
- Approved by EM-1

# Public Involvement in NEPA Process

- ◆ **Environmental Impact Statements**
  - Notice of Intent (NOI)
  - Public scoping period
  - Draft EIS
  - Final EIS
  - Record of Decision
  
- ◆ **Environmental Assessments**
  - State/Tribal Notifications

# QUESTIONS?