GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

DOPAA

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

The U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC) has prepared the *Guide to Development of the Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives* (DOPAA). The purpose of this guide is to provide Army proponents, preparers and other National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis participants with a more structured approach to creating DOPAAs that lead to more effective and defensible environmental documents. The guide has been updated to incorporate the latest requirements specified in 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions; Final Rule).

Purpose and Content

The document provides recommendations for preparing a DOPAA that is consistent with NEPA and its implementing regulations, but specific to U.S. Army operations and activities. The information is presented in a simple, understandable and manageable format, suitable for use throughout the Army. By following the approach and procedures presented in the guide, users can reduce or eliminate the typical problems associated with complex NEPA analyses, such as reanalysis of a constantly changing DOPAA, project delays and cost overruns.

The guide has been prepared as a supplement to the Army NEPA manuals listed in the next section for purposes of improving the DOPAA development process. It can be applied to all Army NEPA analyses associated with on- and off-post training activities, materiel acquisition programs, and facility construction and renovation projects, in addition to other actions supporting installation operations. It is especially recommended for use with larger or more complex programs.

For more information

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http://aec.army.mil

Contact the USAEC Environmental Hotline for assistance, 1-800-USA-3845

Users are advised to periodically visit the USAEC acquisition document Web site at http://aec.army.mil/ usaec/ acquisition/documents00.html to ensure use of the current version.

The DOPAA Guide supplements the following Army NEPA Manuals:

- *NEPA Manual for Materiel Acquisition*
- *Environmental Impact Analysis Manual for Off-Post Training and Deployments*
- *NEPA Manual for Installation Operations and Training*

Following the introduction to the guide in Chapter 1, chapters 2 through 4 provide comprehensive recommendations and information on DOPAA development. Specifically, Chapter 2 identifies key players and describes their level of involvement in the DOPAA development process; Chapter 3 describes the components of a DOPAA, recommended formats to use and the types of information that are normally included; and Chapter 4 describes a multi-step process that can be used in the development of a DOPAA for larger and more complex Army actions (e.g., research and development projects, the fielding of new weapon systems and large training exercises), including a review of methodologies for defining the proposed action and identifying possible alternatives.

Availability

This guide is a living document that is modified as necessary, to incorporate changes in federal legislation, Executive Orders, and Department of Defense (DoD) and Army policy and guidance.