

# Buckman Water Diversion Project and the NEPA Process



Buckman  
Water  
Diversion  
Project EIS

## WHAT IS NEPA AND THE NEPA PROCESS?

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 establishes a basic framework for environmental policy and analysis in the U.S. It was enacted as a result of strong public opinion. Its vision is that people and their activities can exist in productive harmony with nature while fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.
- The NEPA process consists of a set of activities that shed light on potential environmental effects of a proposed project. These steps include gathering information, analyzing data, and documenting the results.
- The NEPA process also provides a forum for public input and feedback concerning the proposed project, possible alternatives, and associated environmental issues. Early in the process, this public input helps the agencies find the appropriate scope of the analysis.

## HOW DOES NEPA GUIDE PLANNING?

- NEPA requires that before a decision on a Federal action can occur, an analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposal must be completed. A Federal “action,” may involve a direct activity of an agency, or it may involve Federal funding, Federal permits and or policy.

## WHY IS THE BUCKMAN WATER DIVERSION PROJECT BEING PROPOSED?

- The City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, and Las Campanas Limited Partnership have identified a critical and immediate need for developing a reliable and sustainable means of accessing surface water supplies. Federal lands and potential Federal funding are involved in this proposal.

## WHAT ACTIONS TRIGGERED THE NEPA PROCESS FOR THIS PROJECT?

- Before the City, County, and Las Campanas can proceed, the Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) must permit construction and operation of the Buckman Water Diversion Project. Facilities would lie on public lands managed by the FS and BLM.
- The possible contribution of Federal funds to the project by the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI)-Bureau of Reclamation.

- The potential for impacts to FS and BLM managed resources, as well as the potential cumulative effects of the project. These impacts could be to the physical, biological, economic, or social environment.

## WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION WILL BE PREPARED?

- The FS and the BLM jointly plan to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Buckman Water Diversion Project.
- Preparation of an EIS allows investigation and analysis of potential impacts that could occur as a result of the project.

## HOW WILL THE PUBLIC BE INVOLVED IN THE NEPA PROCESS FOR THIS PROJECT?

- Two major opportunities for the public to become involved and provide input for the Buckman Water Diversion Project are at the beginning of the NEPA review process during the public scoping period and after the Draft EIS has been prepared.
- Public scoping meetings will be held to provide information to the public on the project and to solicit input and concerns. Written comments, including letters, faxes, or e-mails, will be accepted until the close of the scoping period (September 4, 2002).
- Members of the public can help define the range of issues to be addressed in the NEPA evaluation, suggest sources of relevant data, and suggest analysis methods for inclusion in the Draft EIS.
- After the Draft EIS has been prepared, meetings will be held to provide an opportunity for the public to make oral comments on the document. Written comments, including letters, faxes, or e-mails, will be accepted until the close of the public comment period (TBD).

## WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT OF THE NEPA PROCESS FOR THIS PROJECT?

- The FS and BLM will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) that clearly identifies the selected course of action and the alternatives evaluated for public record.

For more information regarding *the Buckman Water Diversion Project* contact:

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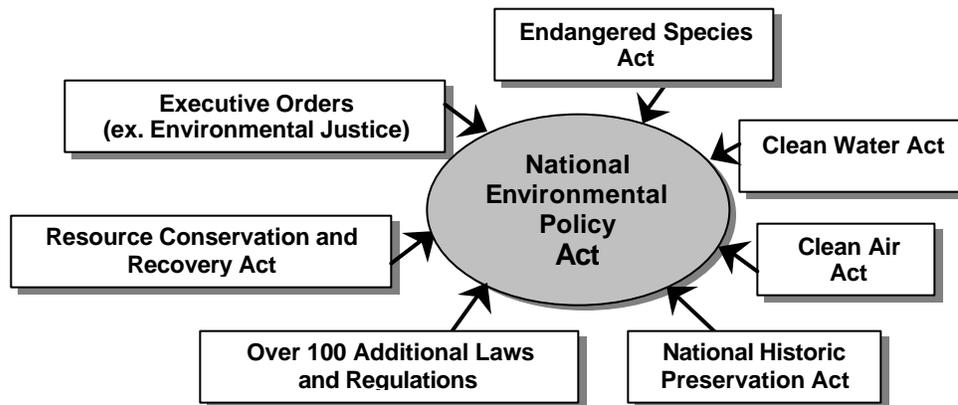
## What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

## What is the NEPA process & why do it for this project?

- Required when Federal activity or funding are involved
- Elicits public input and feedback on the project
- Documents possible environmental effects
- Provides a logical framework for developing project implementation plans

## Major Environmental Planning Laws Covered by NEPA



## NEPA Steps to Fulfill the Buckman Water Diversion Project

