



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

The Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act, or SPEED Act (Reps. Westerman and Golden)

Amends the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to address statutory flaws that have resulted in lengthy timelines and increased frivolous litigation.

Topline Points

- Prolonged NEPA analysis and constant litigation pose significant barriers to all-of-the-above energy production, infrastructure projects, forest management, and more.
- This bill builds on the NEPA reforms passed in the Fiscal Responsibility Act, limiting the scope of environmental reviews and clarifying when NEPA is triggered.
- The legislation creates timelines and sideboards for judicial review under NEPA, codifying key pieces of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado* (Seven County).

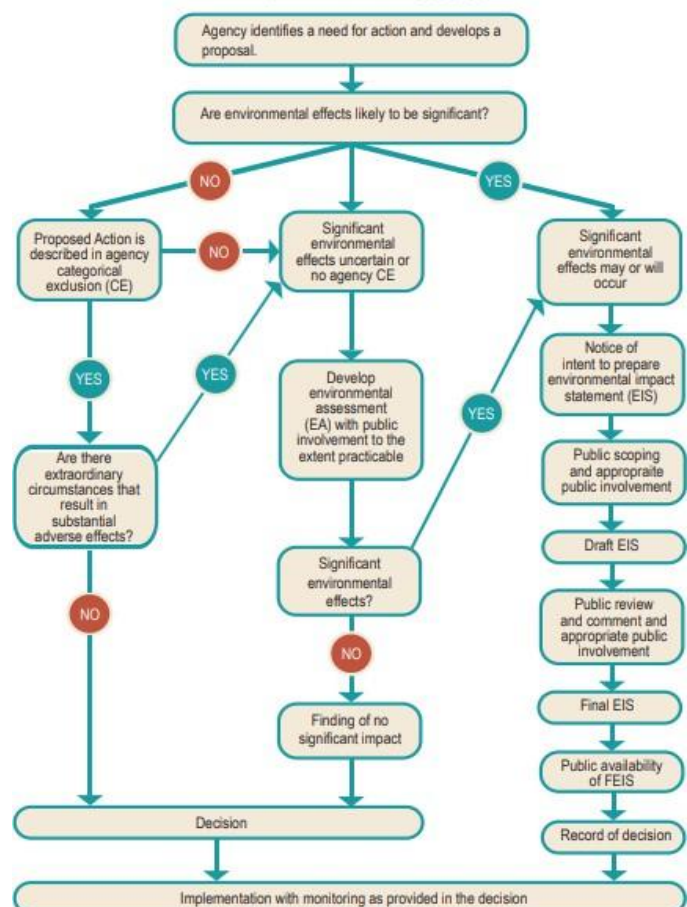
Background

NEPA is a procedural statute that established parameters for assessing and disclosing the environmental impact of all major federal actions. Originally intended to ensure an appropriate balance between protecting the environment and economic development, the NEPA process has become increasingly complex, resulting in massive NEPA documents approaching thousands of pages, protracted project timelines, and litigation.

This legislation simplifies the analysis required in NEPA documents so that agencies are not mired down studying never-ending topics without ever reaching a conclusion. The bill clarifies when NEPA is triggered by focusing the definition of “Major Federal Action.” Lastly, the bill establishes judicial review limitations for NEPA claims, including a 150-day deadline for filing claims, a new standard of review, and the elimination of vacatur and injunction as remedies available to courts.

This bill will create certainty in the permitting process and spur domestic investment in critical infrastructure, energy and conservation projects.

The NEPA Process



*Significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns or substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns may necessitate preparation of a supplemental EIS following either the draft or final EIS or the Record of Decision (CEQ/NEPA Regulations, 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9(c)).

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