



Environmental Information Management Program



Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve

Background

Effective management of environmental planning and compliance information is necessary to ensure that NPS meets its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related mandates. The Environmental Information Management Program provides Servicewide information technology tools and process coordination to facilitate NPS NEPA activities. The Environmental Information Management Program includes the following two major components.

Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC)

PEPC provides the NPS with information technology tools for efficient park planning and resource compliance, project tracking, and public engagement to support collaboration and informed

decision making. The PEPC program's work is focused on development and administration of the PEPC system, a web-based application made up of both internal and external-facing websites. In FY 2015, NPS initiated over 5,000 NEPA reviews using PEPC.

Environmental Review (ER)

ER provides Servicewide coordination for NPS review and comment on other agencies' publically issued NEPA documents, proposed rules, and similar documents. The ER program ensures that the impacts of external proposals on NPS resources and interests are considered during the other agencies' NEPA processes and that NPS review of external environmental documents is conducted in accordance with Departmental policy and procedures. In FY 2015, the ER program coordinated NPS review of over 1,200 external environmental documents.



Energy projects such as wind farms can impact natural and cultural resources. ER helps to ensure that the impacts of external projects on NPS resources and values are considered during the NEPA process

Highlights and Accomplishments

PEPC Recognized by Council on Environmental Quality

Through the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) NEPA Pilots Program, PEPC received recognition as a leading example of the use of information technology by a Federal agency in NEPA. CEQ highlighted PEPC's potential to increase efficiency of NEPA reviews, reducing both costs and time needed for NEPA planning and compliance. Through the CEQ pilot, PEPC program staff have advised and collaborated with other Federal agencies to improve their own use of information technology in NEPA.

New Web-based Environmental Review Tracking Solution

ER has launched a new web-based application to coordinate the NPS external environmental review process. The application, called the Environmental Review Tracking Solution (ERTS) is a module of the larger NPS Integrated Resources Management Applications (IRMA). ERTS enables, for the first time, the entire NPS external environmental review process to be coordinated and recorded via a single web-based application accessible to users across the NPS organization

Status and Next Steps

Implementing the PEPC Strategic Plan

In a recently created strategic planning process, PEPC has identified key goals and priorities to guide program work over the next five years. Goals include providing new tools to promote meaningful and innovative NEPA public



PEPC allows the public to access and comment on NPS planning and environmental documents through a single web portal. In FY 2015, documents for over 14,000 active projects were published through PEPC.

engagement and developing tools that maximize time saving and collaboration among NPS staff during the NEPA planning and compliance process

Expanding Environmental Review Program Functions

ER has long coordinated NPS review of external agency environmental documents. Through a new application, the Solution for Internal Document Review (SIDR), ER is now expanding its functions to include coordination of the Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate's review of NPS planning and policy documents, such as Foundation Documents and Resource Stewardship Strategies, during their development. Through this new function, ER will help ensure that NRSS continues to contribute meaningfully to NPS natural resource management in an efficient and constructive manner.

More Information

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