



# BPA NEPA COMPLIANCE

February  
2024

# National Environmental Policy Act



# What is NEPA?



Stop.

Look.

Listen.

# What is NEPA?

- Requires assessment of environmental effects of proposed actions
- Requires analysis *before* decisions are made and before actions are taken
- Includes public outreach and analysis availability
- “Action-forcing”
- It is the law





# ACTIONS REQUIRING NEPA REVIEW





# Capital or New Activities



# Maintenance





# Vegetation Management





# Authorizations

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION LAND USE REVIEW REQUEST

2. DATE

03/16/2015

3. FROM: REAL PROP

Reynolds, Cyn

Design; Chris Wong- TELC-TPP-3

K-Ross

Joseph Sharpe - KEP-4

Anna Knight -TERM-TPP-4

- F. Other:
- G. Natural Resource S
- H. Customer Account E  
(See web link below
- I. Customer Service E
- J. District Manager:



# Land, Property, Facility Sales, and Acquisition





# Federal Proposed Action - Interconnections

- BPA interconnection facilities such as:
  - Taps, switches, substations, access roads
- Land use requests for BPA fee-owned property
- Line reliability actions such as impairments



# Federal Proposed Action

## Example Interconnection Project

### 20-MW Solar Development

- Solar panels
- Collector lines
- Collector substation
- Access roads
  
- ~300 acres of disturbance

### BPA Proposed Action

- Tap
  - New switches
  - New structures
  - Relocation structures
  - Access road extension
  - ROW easement
- New radio tower
- Substation electronic equipment
  
- ~0.2 acre disturbance;  
0.8 acre of new easement



# NEPA Implementation Steps

- Environmental Analysis
  - Integrates review of other applicable environmental laws
- Consultation and Permitting
  - Land Managers and Regulatory Agencies
  - Tribes
- Public Involvement
- Documentation
- Implementation of Mitigation Measures/BMPs

# Environmental Analysis

project description

+

project location

+

natural and human resources present

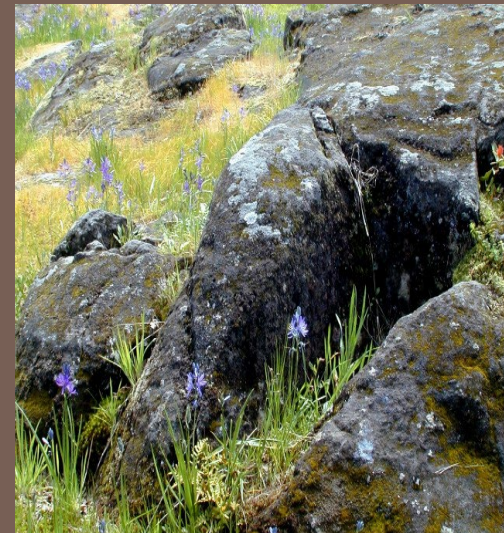
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***Reasonable Foreseeable Impacts***



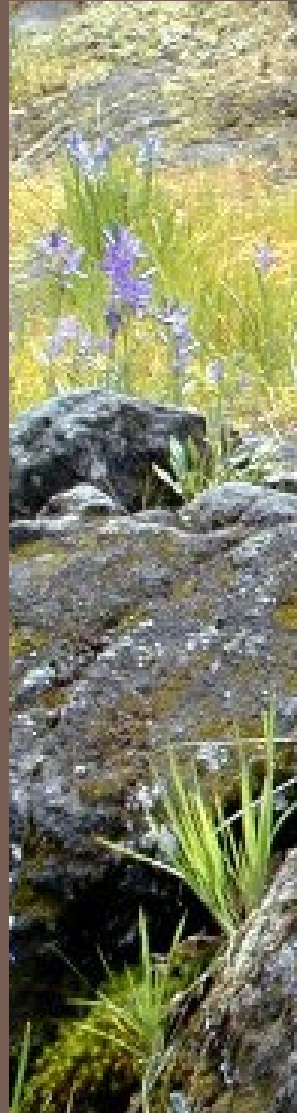
# Environmental Analysis

- Review of maps, aerial photos, existing data
- On-the-ground field surveys
- Modeling
- Consultation with Tribes and other agencies with expertise
- Development of project specific maps
- Identification and implementation of mitigation measures



# Environmental Analysis - Resources

- Plants, Wildlife, Fish
  - Endangered Species Act
  - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
  - Golden & Bald Eagle Act
  - Noxious Weed Act and Executive Orders
- Water Quality & Wetlands
  - Clean Water Act
  - Floodplain Management EO 11988
  - Protection of Wetlands EO 11990
- Historic & Cultural Resources
  - National Historic Preservation Act





# Environmental Analysis - Resources

- Land Use and Recreation
- Visual Impacts
- Soils/Geology
- Social, Economics and Environmental Justice
- Transportation
- Noise
- Health and Safety
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases



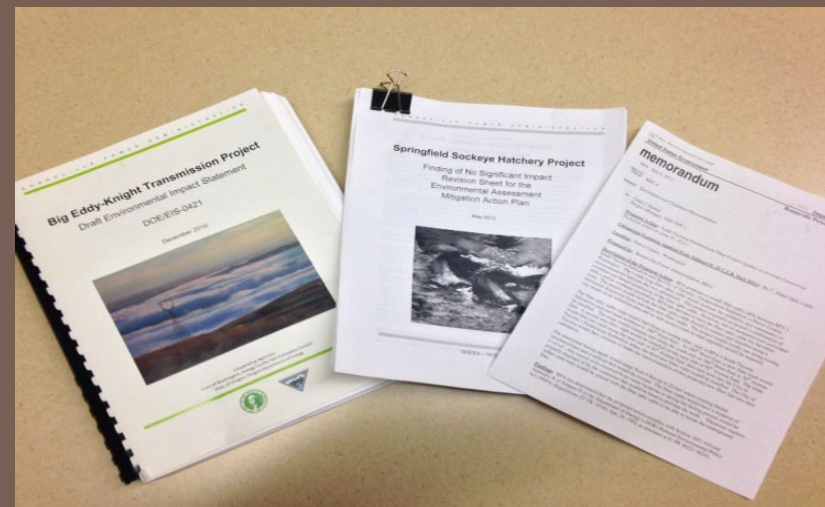
# Types of NEPA Documents

- Categorical Exclusion (CX)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

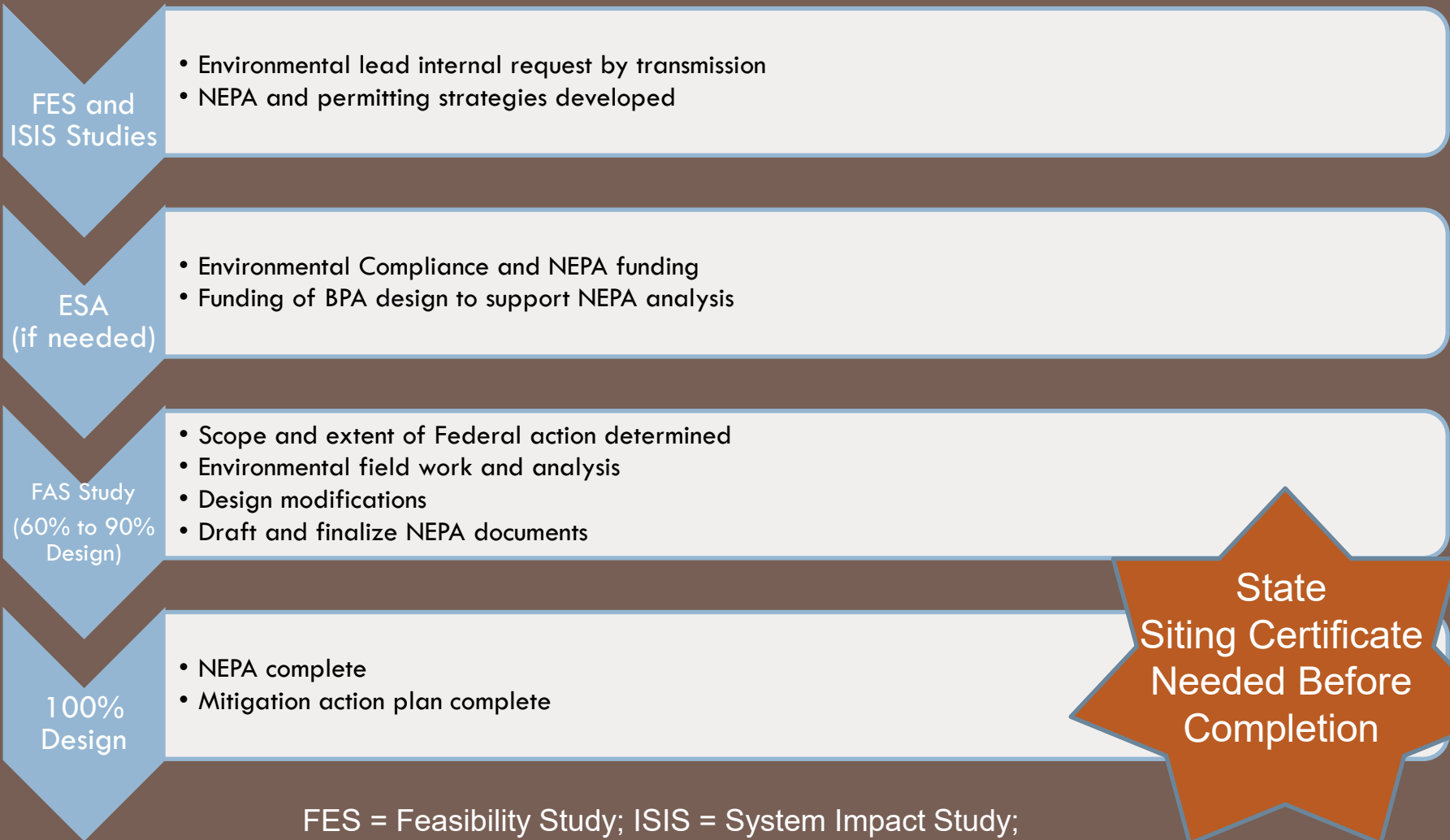
CX

EIS

Potential for Significant Impacts



# BPA Compliance and Design Process



FES = Feasibility Study; ISIS = System Impact Study;  
ESA = Environmental Services Agreement; FAS = Facilities Study



# BPA's Role for Federal Action

- Determine the scope and conduct the environmental analysis
- Comply with applicable environmental laws
- Coordinate NEPA compliance strategy development
- Determine public involvement
- Develop NEPA document, impact minimization measures, complete regulatory approvals





**Questions**