

Appendix A: Air Quality Environmental Documents

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Appendix A. Air Quality Environmental Documents

A1. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

There are various environmental documents required for implementation of the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*, as amended, (*NEPA*) (Reference 30) that may contain air quality information and analysis. The primary types of air quality environmental documents are Environmental Assessments, Findings Of No Significant Impact, Environmental Impact Statements, Records Of Decision, Air Force Forms, and Conformity Determinations. The following briefly describes each type of environmental document and identifies sources of more detailed document information. As indicated in the following document descriptions, some of the documents only apply to USAF actions. The remaining documents apply to both the FAA and USAF.

A1.1 Air Force (AF) Form 813: Preliminary Environmental Impact Analysis

AF Form 813 is the first document prepared for USAF actions. The form is prepared to aid in the development of the assessment, providing information on the proposed action and its alternatives, purpose, and potential environmental effects. The current AF Form 813 consolidates former AF Forms 813 and 814. Certain sections of the document are prepared by the proponent and the Environmental Planning Function. A copy of AF Form 813 is provided in Attachment A-1.

A1.2 Environmental Assessment (EA)

An EA is an environmental document that may be prepared for a Federal agency action. It is a concise document with the purpose of:

- 1) Briefly providing sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or finding of no significant impact;
- 2) Aiding an agency's compliance with *NEPA* when no environmental impact statement is necessary, identifying better alternatives and mitigation measures; and
- 3) Facilitating preparation of an environmental impact statement when one is necessary.

If from initial review the proposed action can not be classified as a categorical exclusion or a decision has not been made to directly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an EA is prepared. If it is concluded that the action will have no significant impacts on the environment, the Federal agency prepares a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Conversely, if the action is determined to have significant impacts on the environment, the Federal agency prepares an Environmental Impact Statement. In addition, some agencies may expressly provide page guidelines. A detailed description of the EA process and content are provided in FAA Order 1050.1: *Policies and Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts* (Reference 62) and 5050.4: *Airport Environmental Handbook* (Reference 63) and in USAF Instruction 32-7061: *The Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)* (Reference 41) and the *Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP): Desk Reference* (Reference 43) for air base actions.

A1.3 Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

A FONSI is a document prepared for a Federal agency action that will not have a significant effect on the environment. In the document, the Federal agency briefly explains the reasons why an action will not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. In addition to this statement, the FONSI must include, summarize, or attach and incorporate by reference the Environmental Assessment. A detailed description of the FONSI content is provided in FAA Order 1050.1 and 5050.4, and in USAF Instruction 32-7061 and the *EIAP: Desk Reference* for air bases.

A1.4 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

An EIS is a detailed document required of all Federal actions likely to have significant effects on the environment. If the action will have significant environmental impacts, a Federal agency may decide to directly prepare an EIS for an action (without first preparing an Environmental Assessment). A detailed discussion of the EIS content and process are contained in FAA Order 1050.1 and 5050.4, and in USAF Instruction 32-7061 and the *EIAP: Desk Reference* for air bases.

A1.5 Record Of Decision (ROD)

A ROD is a concise public document that a Federal agency is required to prepare, stating the final decision on a proposed major Federal action and the alternatives considered by the Federal agency. A ROD can be used to set forth the conditions required for the approval of the action and to state mitigation measures. A ROD is a separate document that must be made available to the public through appropriate public notice following the completion of the Environmental Impact Statement. An overview of the ROD process is provided in FAA Order 1050.1 and 5050.4, and the USAF Instruction 32-7061 and the *EIAP: Desk Reference* for air bases.

A1.6 Conformity Determination

Federal Aviation Administration and Air Force actions fall mostly under the General Conformity Rule (Reference 7). A conformity determination states if and how an action conforms to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP). Conformity to a SIP is defined as demonstrating consistency with the SIP's "purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the national ambient air quality standards and achieving expeditious attainment of such standards."

A 30-day notice that describes the proposed action and the Federal agency's draft Conformity Determination on the action must be provided to required recipients and placed by prominent advertisement in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the areas affected by the action. The agency also must provide 30 days for written public comment prior to taking any formal actions on the draft determination. This comment period may be concurrent with any other public involvement, such as that which occurs in the *NEPA* process.

A notice of the final Conformity Determination must be provided to the required recipients and placed by prominent advertisement in a daily newspaper of circulation in the areas affected by the action within 30 days of the final Conformity Determination

The Conformity Determination may be included in the Environmental Impact Statement for an action. However, the determination must be issued prior to issuance of an agency FONSI or Record of Decision.

Attachment A-1

REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS		<i>Request Control Symbol</i> RCS:			
INSTRUCTIONS: <i>Section I to be completed by Proponent: Section II and III to be completed by Environmental Planning Function. Continue on separate sheets as necessary. Reference appropriate item number (s).</i>					
SECTION I - PROPONENT INFORMATION					
1. TO (Environmental Planning Function)		2. FROM (<i>Proponent organization and functional address symbol</i>)		2a. Telephone No.	
3. TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION					
4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION (<i>Identify decision to be made and need date</i>)					
5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE (DOPAA) (<i>Provide sufficient detail for evaluation of the total action.</i>)					
6. PROPONENT APPROVAL (<i>Name and Grade</i>)		6a. SIGNATURE		6b. DATE	
SECTION II - PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY. (<i>Check appropriate box and describe potential environmental effects including cumulative effects.</i>) (+ = positive effect: O = no effect: - = negative effect: U = unknown effect)				+	O
7. AIR INSTALLATION COMPATIBLE USE ZONE/LAND (Noise, accident potential, encroachment, etc.)				-	U
8. AIR QUALITY (Emissions, attainment status, state implementation plan, etc.)					
9. WATER RESOURCES (Quality, quantity, source, etc.)					
10. SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (Asbestos/radiation/chemical exposure, explosives safety quantity-distance, etc.)					
11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/WASTE (Use/storage/generation, solid waste, etc.)					
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Wetlands/floodlands, flora, fauna, etc.)					
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES (Native American burial sites, archeological, historical, etc.)					
14. GEOLOGY AND SOILS (Topography, minerals, geothermal, installation Restoration Program, seismicity, etc.)					
15. SOCIOECONOMIC (Economic/ population projections, school and local fiscal impacts, etc.)					
16. OTHER (Potential impacts not addressed above.)					
SECTION III - ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS DETERMINATION					
17.		PROPOSED ACTION QUALIFIES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CATEX) _____: OR			
		PROPOSED ACTION DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR A CATEX: FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED			
18. REMARKS					
19. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FUNCTION CERTIFICATION (Name and Grade)		19a. Signature		19b. Date	

