

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT

NEPA and Environmental Documentation



Environmental expertise to keep your projects moving forward

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that federal agencies consider and document effects to the human environment within their decision-making processes. Stantec has a history of success helping our clients prepare documents necessary to comply with NEPA and associated policies, rules, executive orders, and other agency criteria.

NEPA analysis requires documentation of potential environmental effects for each alternative considered. The type of NEPA documentation, guidelines, and exclusions implemented for a specific project depends on the lead federal agency. The required level of documentation varies based on anticipated level of impact, regulatory and resource agency concerns, the degree of public scrutiny, and potential controversy. NEPA analysis may also require interagency coordination and additional regulatory compliance. Stantec staff are familiar with the varying requirements of different agencies and work hard to develop a clear scoping process to identify issues that will frame the environmental analysis. We then assemble a team of experts with the proper technical knowledge and experience to address these concerns. Our environmental team has used this approach to successfully complete NEPA and analogous state documents/processes for clients throughout the US.

Successful NEPA analysis is founded on a transparent and inclusive public involvement process. This process includes implementation of appropriate scoping methods supported by an inter-disciplinary team of technical experts. Our staff has established excellent working relationships with regulatory agencies throughout the US and our regulatory and scientific knowledge allows us to develop defensible environmental documents.

In addition to our rigorous technical study and document preparation capabilities, Stantec has processes in place to verify that the NEPA administrative process is completed efficiently and effectively with a well-documented file structure. Stantec is ISO 9001:2008 certified. This internationally recognized standard for quality management has been adopted by Stantec in order to reduce project risk while providing support for regulatory compliance, promoting reliability, and improving the efficiency of our services.







Integrated solutions for the NEPA process

The NEPA process shouldn't be a roadblock to development. Properly implemented, NEPA facilitates responsible planning and informed decision making regarding expected impacts within a defined project schedule. Stantec's sound, unbiased, scientifically based analyses help create a positive relationship between project proponents, regulatory and resource agencies, and private and public stakeholders. Our work helps your project move forward, while respecting and sustaining the community and environment it is founded on.

Our team is experienced with NEPA administration, public involvement, and resource agency coordination requirements. Our detailed understanding of the NEPA process and established relationships with regulatory agencies underlie our ability to complete legally defensible NEPA documents on time and within budget.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Scoping Plans and Implementation
- Interagency Consultation
- Public Notice Issuance
- Public Meetings and Presentation Support
- Media Relations
- Study Plans Preparation
- Cultural Resource Investigations
- Biological Resource Investigations
- Historical, Demographic, and Ethnographic Studies
- Literature Reviews and Data Collection
- Design and Implementation of Baseline Studies
- Public Comment Inventory, Comment Response, and Integration

- · Alternatives Development and Analysis
- Impact Analysis
- Environmental Justice Evaluations
- Mitigation Strategies, including Quantitative Mitigation Analysis
- Monitoring Plans
- Categorical Exclusion (CE)
- Environmental Assessments (EA)
- Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)
- Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Decision Notice, and Record of Decision preparation
- Administrative Record-keeping
- QA/QC

NEPA COMPLIANCE SUPPORT

- Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Sections 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act
- Section 404/401 of the Clean Water Act
- Environmental Justice Evaluations and Strategies
- Farmland Protection Policy Act
- Air Resources, including Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change
- Noise Assessments
- FEMA Floodplain Evaluations and Letter of Map Amendment Submittals
- Coastal Zone Management Compliance
- Visual Quality Assessments and Simulations
- Socioeconomic Studies and Evaluations
- Transportation Impact Studies
- · Secondary and Cumulative Impact Assessments
- Construction and Post-Construction Impact Avoidance
 and Minimization Mitigation Planning
- Impact Monitoring
- · Quantitative Mitigation Assessment and Implementation

NATURAL RESOURCE EVALUATIONS AND SURVEYS

- Endangered and Threatened Species Surveys
- Botanical Surveys
- Wildlife and Natural Community Surveys
- Wetland Delineations and Assessments
- Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Studies
- Timber Evaluations and Forest Ecosystem Surveys
- Invasive Species Identification and Management Plans
- Land Use and Natural Resource Management Planning
- Critical or Significant Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Assessments
- Instream Flow Studies
- · Hydrology and Geomorphology Assessments
- Intertidal and Subtidal Marine Communities
- Historic, Demographic, and Ethnographic Studies
- Resource Valuation Studies



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

- Corridor Evaluations and Environmental Constraints Analysis (Trails, Roads, Bridges, Transmission Lines, Oil & Gas Pipelines)
- Trail and Educational Display Siting and Design
- Soil, Geology, and Slope Stability Evaluations
- Vista Re-establishment and Maintenance Plans
- Forest Management Planning
- Photo Interpretation, Base Map Production, GIS
- · Recreational Use Surveys and Planning
- Integrated Pest Management Planning

FEDERAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

- Federal Clean Water Act Sections. 401, 402 and 404 Permitting
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Certification
- State and Local Wetland and Site Location Permits
- · Shoreland and Coastal Zone Determinations
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 10 Incidental Take
 Permitting (ITP)
- NPDES Phase II Support
- State Environmental Protection Acts (including CEQA, SEPA, MEPA)
- Impact Avoidance and Minimization Design Mitigation Design and Compensation Planning

2,700+

professionals in 400+ offices throughout North America means that our environmental team can deliver the local understanding your project needs.



Connections you can count on

Stantec has a diverse team of in-house professionals with a proven track record of expert NEPA support services. Our work starts with environmental considerations during the conceptual design and planning phase, through the preparation of the environmental baseline data and impact analysis, interagency coordination, public notification and involvement, and completing the public record of the findings and decision.

Our NEPA experts have participated in and presented at training programs for implementing the NEPA, including preparing and documenting environmental impact analyses, cumulative effects in the NEPA process, scoping and public involvement, and socioeconomic impact analysis. We also have specialized expertise to support the necessary baseline studies—wetland delineation, stream identification, traffic modeling, air and noise modeling, biological surveys, threatened and endangered species, and NHPA Section 106 coordination.

Project Experience

US Department of Homeland Security Headquarters at St. Elizabeths WASHINGTON DC

This project involved developing a Master Plan for construction of the 4.5 million squarefoot Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Headquarters for 14,000 employees on a 176-acre National Historic Landmark. Stantec conducted transportation and environmental studies at this site.

Stantec worked with the GSA and the FHWA Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division to prepare the Draft and Final EIS including technical studies associated with wetlands and wildlife; utility planning; site surveying; hazardous waste assessments; risk assessments; feasibility study; archaeological investigations; traffic assessments and roadway designs; and assessed preliminary costs, benefits, and impacts. The St. Elizabeths campus has numerous resources and constraints that provided challenges to consider as part of the work, such as mature woodlands, streams, and wetlands, a civil war cemetery and extensive environmental contamination. There was a nesting pair of bald eagles directly adjacent to the campus. Stantec coordinated with several state and federal agencies to develop avoidance and mitigation options for protected species.

Our team prepared concept designs to reconfigure the I-295/Malcolm X interchange, construct a new access road from the interchange into the St. Elizabeths campus, and improve capacity and intersection flow on local roadways. Because these proposed roadway improvements would require improvements to a Federal highway and would require the use of National Park Service land, Stantec studied more than 15 combinations of roadway improvements that would avoid or minimize impacts to lands protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act.

Client: Department of Homeland Security

Armed Forces Retirement Home Master Plan NEPA Permitting WASHINGTON, DC

The Armed Forces Retirements Home (AFRH) prepared a master development plan for the Washington, DC campus to guide long-term use and development of various underutilized buildings and vacant areas on the site.

Through the GSA, Stantec provided environmental studies and compliance activities under NEPAs Section 106 of the NHPA for the AFRH Master Plan. This included a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the site, hazardous materials surveys for various buildings (to identify asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, etc.), asbestos and lead abatement drawings, project oversight, and air sampling.

Stantec also prepared a boundary survey, conducted a Phase 1A Archeological Survey, and prepared the Final EIS that analyzed three proposals for developing the AFRH property.

In addition to the environmental activities, Stantec assisted the AFRH and GSA with public involvement meetings, open houses, and presentations to the home residents and area residents to help them better understand the project and gain public input. Stantec also drafted NEPA regulations for AFRH. Stantec is currently working with AFRH and GSA in preparing a supplemental EIS and Phase II ESA.

Client: Armed Forces Retirements Home, General Services Administration



Environmental Impact Statement for I-93 Proposed Exit 4A LONDONDERRY, NH

Stantec helped the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) minimize environmental impacts and coordinate permitting materials for transportation developments.

Proposed construction of a new highway interchange on Interstate 93 presented possible impacts to natural resources in the area including wildlife, water, wetlands, geology, soils, wilderness areas, and vegetation. To move forward with design alternatives, the New Hampshire DOT, FHWA, and Towns of Derry and Londonderry chose Stantec to complete a comprehensive EIS to measure the level of impact this development would have on the surrounding environmental communities.

Stantec's initial tasks included identifying natural resources and performing a detailed evaluation of potential resource impacts from multiple design alternatives. Then the Stantec team updated inventories of natural resources and performed initial stormwater evaluations. Stantec also provided secondary impacts and design alternatives, developed conceptual mitigation options, coordinated with regulatory agencies and developed all NEPA documentation and permit application materials. Stantec coordinated the complete production of the EIS document to meet FHWA standards so that the clients could move forward with their design alternatives.

Client: New Hampshire Department of Transportation



Ballville Dam Environmental Impact Statement BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP, OH

Making the Great Lakes even greater is the goal of Stantec's work at the Ballville Dam in the City of Freemont, Ohio. Working in conjunction with the City and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Stantec is helping to remove the Ballville Dam on the Sandusky River. This project will help to address the restoration of the Great Lakes through aquatic habitat restoration in the Sandusky River, a tributary of Lake Erie.

The City received a \$2,000,000 award through the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA) to remove the dam. The dam is no longer needed. By removing it and expanding the spawning habitat for walleye and white bass, commercial fisheries of Lake Erie will be improved, providing economic benefits to the Great Lakes region. As a result of the federal funding, the project is subject to the NEPA. As administrator of the GLFWRA, the USFWS is the lead Federal agency for development of a Draft EIS. Key elements of the Draft EIS include agency coordination, public involvement activities, natural resource studies, and cultural resource evaluation. Additionally, the project includes evaluation of recreation impacts for angling and boating, air quality, noise, visual resources, and human health and safety. The Draft EIS picks up where the Ballville Dam Removal Feasibility Study produced by Stantec leaves off. Development of alternatives and detailed evaluation of those carried forward are further discussed in the Draft EIS. Stantec has been partnering with the City of Fremont on various aspects of this project since 2010.

Client: Ohio Department of Transportation

Ten West Link Transmission Line Environmental Impact Statement ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA

Of the 114 miles of the proposed Ten West Link 500kV transmission line route, 83 miles cross public lands in Arizona and California. Stantec was selected by the BLM to provide a third party EIS to analyze the potential impacts of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the line, which will require right-of-way route approvals from the BLM Yuma Field Manager, BLM Arizona State Office, and the CPUC. Cooperating agencies include the USFWS, US Environmental Protection Agency, and CPUC among others, To help minimize impacts, the majority of the proposed route follows an existing transmission corridor, but several alternative route segments will be considered by the BLM. Stantec is conducting all aspects of the NEPA process, including public scoping, alternatives development, preparation of a Draft and Final EIS and resource management plan amendment, visual resources baseline data collection, and assistance with the record of decision. If approved, the goal of service would be within several years following issuance of the necessary permits and rights-of-way.

Client: Bureau of Land Management

Pan Mine Third Party Environmental Impact Statement WHITE PINE COUNTY, NV

Stantec recently completed preparation of the Final EIS for the Midway Gold Pan Mine Project EIS as the third-party EIS contractor. The lead agency was the Nevada BLM, Egan Field Office. Midway proposed to construct an open-pit gold mine with two larger pits and four smaller pits. The mine also includes crushing facilities and stockpiles, two waste rock disposal areas, a heap leach pad and associated conveyors, processing facilities and ponds, water supply wells, haul roads and access roads, ancillary facilities, and a 25 kV transmission line. Construction and operation of the Pan Mine will result in approximately 3,200 acres of disturbance that includes the previously authorized exploration disturbance of 100 acres. Upon completion of mining, the operation will be reclaimed. Meeting a tight schedule, Stantec was able to submit the Final EIS document within 19 months from project initiation.

Client: Midway Gold Pan Mine

Fowler Ridge Wind Farm ITP Environmental Impact Statement BENTON COUNTY, IN

Stantec served as a third-party contractor working with the USFWS preparing an EIS and providing related NEPA compliance services in support of an ITP, pursuant to the provisions of section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA for the 449-turbine Fowler Ridge Wind Farm in Benton County, Indiana.

Prior to September 2009, no mortality of species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA had been reported, including the Indiana bat. In September 2009, the first documented take of an endangered Indiana bat at a wind facility occurred at BP Wind Energy's Fowler Ridge wind farm. A second documented take of an Indiana bat at Fowler Ridge occurred during the fall of 2010. In order to comply with section 9 of the ESA, Fowler Ridge initiated the ITP process with the USFWS in 2010. The EIS evaluated the impacts of the No-Action Alternative and eight Action Alternatives relating to the issuance of an ITP for the Project's HCP. The HCP is a component of the proposed action in this EIS; it is intended to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the incidental take of the federally endangered Indiana bat, resulting from the implementation of covered activities in the HCP.

Stantec managed the EIS process, assisting with the preparation of the notice of intent and notice of availability, responsible for: coordination of scoping and public outreach and participation in public meetings; direct, indirect and cumulative impact analysis; alternatives analyses; preparation of the draft and final EIS; and maintenance of the administrative record. Stantec also conducted a noise analysis, wetland determination, cultural resources evaluation and section 106 compliance, and prepared a photosimulation for Phase IV of the Fowler Ridge project. The final EIS was made available January 2014 and the Record of Decision issued March 2014.

Client: BP Wind Energy, USFWS

Communities are fundamental. Whether around the corner or across the globe, they provide a foundation, a sense of place and of belonging. That's why at Stantec, we always design with community in mind.

We care about the communities we serve because they're our communities too. This allows us to assess what's needed and connect our expertise; to appreciate nuances and envision what's never been considered; to bring together diverse perspectives so we can collaborate toward a shared success.

We're designers, engineers, scientists, and project managers innovating together at the intersection of community, creativity, and collaboration. Balancing these priorities results in projects that advance the quality of life in communities across the globe. Stantec trades on the TSX and the NYSE under the symbol STN. Visit us at stantec.com or find us on social media.

