



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
**DIRECTIVES SYSTEM**

Subject Number:

REG-1

Transmittal Number:

490

Date: 11/29/88

**Subject:** Handbook on Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

**Approval:**

**Title:** Deputy Director

1. Purpose. This directive establishes the "Handbook on Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969" (NEPA) as Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) official guide on compliance with NEPA, as amended. The Handbook describes responsibilities and procedures for OSMRE implementation of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500 - 1508), and other related laws and regulations.

2. Summary of Changes. This directive updates the responsibilities and procedures for OSMRE implementation of NEPA, the CEQ Regulations and other related laws and regulations.

3. Definitions.

a. NEPA. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended by Public Law 94-52, July 3, 1975, and Public Law 94-83, August 9, 1975).

b. Handbook on Procedures for Implementing NEPA. The handbook developed in accordance with the Department of the Interior Departmental Manual and maintained by the Branch of Environmental and Economic Analysis (BEEA) to set out the procedures governing OSMRE compliance with NEPA. In this directive it is referred to as the "handbook."

4. Policy/Procedure.

a. Policy. The procedures set out in the handbook are to be followed unless alternative procedures are approved by the Assistant Director, Program Policy.

b. Responsibilities.

(1) Assistant Director, Program Policy (ADPP) ensures that the procedures in the handbook are followed for NEPA actions initiated in Headquarters and approves any alternative procedures on a case-by-case basis for all OSMRE NEPA actions.

(2) Assistant Directors for Field Operations (ADFOs) ensure that the procedures in the handbook are followed in the Field Operations Offices and Field Offices.

c. Procedures.

(1) Requests for approval of alternative procedures to the handbook must be submitted on a case-by-case basis by memorandum to Chief, BEEA. The Chief, BEEA will evaluate the alternative procedures and will make recommendations to the ADPP. The ADPP shall approve alternative procedures to the handbook on a case-by-case basis.

(2) Recommendations for changes to the handbook shall be submitted by memorandum to Chief, BEEA. A temporary directive will be issued as changes to the handbook are effected. The handbook will be updated on an as-needed basis to incorporate all the temporary directives issued to that point.

5. Reporting Requirements. None.

6. Effect on Other Documents. Supersedes and replaces Directive REG-1, Handbook on Procedures for Implementing NEPA, dated August 25, 1987.

7. References.

a. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

b. Executive Order 11514, as amended by Executive Order 11991.

c. Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508).

d. Department of the Interior, Departmental Manual. Part 516, Chapters 1-7

8. Effective Date. Upon Issuance.

9. Contact. Chief, BEEA, 343-5150.

10. Keywords. NEPA, Environmental, Procedures.