

# National Environmental Policy Act Process for the OSTs PEIS

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process for PEISs.** Under NEPA, the term “environment” encompasses both the physical environment (e.g., air, surface water, groundwater, geology) and the human environment (e.g., health and safety, jobs, transportation, cultural resources, land use).

**The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) established a regulatory framework to assist federal agencies in fulfilling NEPA requirements,** including procedures for preparing PEISs. In turn, individual agencies have established their own implementing guidelines to meet these requirements. BLM’s guidelines are available in the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1.

**BLM is preparing the OSTs PEIS in order to analyze the reasonably foreseeable environmental impacts, of the range of reasonable alternatives for the allocation of oil shale and tar sands resources on public lands administered by the BLM in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.**

**Next Steps.** Consistent with NEPA requirements, BLM is taking the following major steps in preparing the OSTs PEIS: issuance of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to begin the PEIS process, gather public and other stakeholder input on the scope of the PEIS, prepare and issue the Draft PEIS; receive public comments on the Draft PEIS, respond to those comments in a Final PEIS, consider any protests, and issue a Record of Decision (ROD).



<http://ostseis.anl.gov>



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