National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

**Application Phase**

- **Start**
  - Applicant reviews activities requiring NEPA review (triggering mechanisms)
  - Applicant submits application or Agency proposes action

**Review and Issuance Phase**

- **Agency**
  - Agency reviews activities and considers whether activity is listed as a Categorical Exclusion
  - Listed as Categorical Exclusion
    - Lead Agency analyzes project to verify that Categorical Exclusion applies
    - Applies
      - Determine NEPA Lead Agency, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) designates if needed
    - Does Not Apply
      - List as Categorical Exclusion
        - Lead Agency proceeds with scoping process
        - Lead Agency issues Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
      - Not Listed as Categorical Exclusion
        - Lead Agency proceeds with scoping process
        - Lead Agency issues Draft EIS

- **Applicant or Lead Agency**
  - Applicant or Lead Agency produces an Environmental Assessment (EA)
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- **Lead Agency**
  - Lead Agency evaluates EA and determines whether the proposal has any likely significant impacts to the environment
  - No Likely Significant Impacts
    - No Likely Significant Impacts
    - If FONSI comment period
      - Lead Agency evaluates comments
      - Proceed with FONSI
    - Likely Significant Impacts
      - Likely Significant Impacts
      - Lead Agency issues Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
      - If FONSI comment period
        - Lead Agency evaluates comments
        - Proceed with FONSI
    - Withdraw FONSI

- **Agency**
  - Lead Agency issues Notice of Intent (NOI)
  - Lead Agency proceeds with scoping process
  - Lead Agency issues Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
  - Lead Agency reviews comments and issues Final EIS
  - Lead Agency issues Record of Decision (ROD)

**Legend**

- **A** = Hyperlink
- **B** = Progression
- **C** = Revision
- **D** = Optional