The background of the slide features a dense arrangement of vibrant green leaves, likely from a tree, with visible veins. At the bottom of the image, there are soft, circular ripples in a light blue-green water, suggesting a natural, environmental setting. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rounded rectangle.

State Environmental Review

Requirements and Procedures

Valerie McMillan

Department of Administration



What is the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)?

- ✿ SEPA is the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act of 1971.
- ✿ It encourages the wise, productive and beneficial use of natural resources without damage to the environment.
- ✿ It requires state agencies to consider and report on environmental aspects and consequences of their actions.



Why is SEPA important?

- ✿ SEPA establishes a process which brings to light possible environmental issues.
- ✿ The environmental information is considered by decision-makers as they decide whether or not to approve a project.



Projects Subject To SEPA

- ✿ Only projects with certain characteristics are subject to SEPA.
- ✿ When all of these “triggers” are met, an environmental document must be prepared, submitted and circulated for review.



The Three SEPA “Triggers”

1. The project requires an action by a state agency.
 - ✿ Constructing public facilities
 - ✿ Issuing permits
 - ✿ Awarding grants
 - ✿ Other actions required for the project to proceed

The Three SEPA “Triggers”

2. The project involves an expenditure of public funds or the use of state land.

- ✿ Any amount of public funding (no minimum amount)
- ✿ local, state or federal funding

AND



The Three SEPA “Triggers”

3. The project may result in a potential detrimental environmental effect.

- ✿ Most state agencies have established minimum criteria
- ✿ Projects that fall below these minimum criteria do not usually require environmental analyses



How does the SEPA process work?

- ✿ The state agency considering the action is responsible for preparing an environmental analysis with information on:
 - ✿ Existing environmental characteristics
 - ✿ Project description & location map
 - ✿ Potential environmental impacts
 - ✿ Alternatives and mitigation measures



How does the SEPA process work?

- ✿ 16 copies of the environmental document are submitted to the Clearinghouse
- ✿ Copies are distributed to reviewers
- ✿ Notice in Environmental Bulletin
- ✿ Comments sent to the Clearinghouse
- ✿ The Clearinghouse recommends whether any further action is needed to comply with SEPA

SEPA Environmental Documents

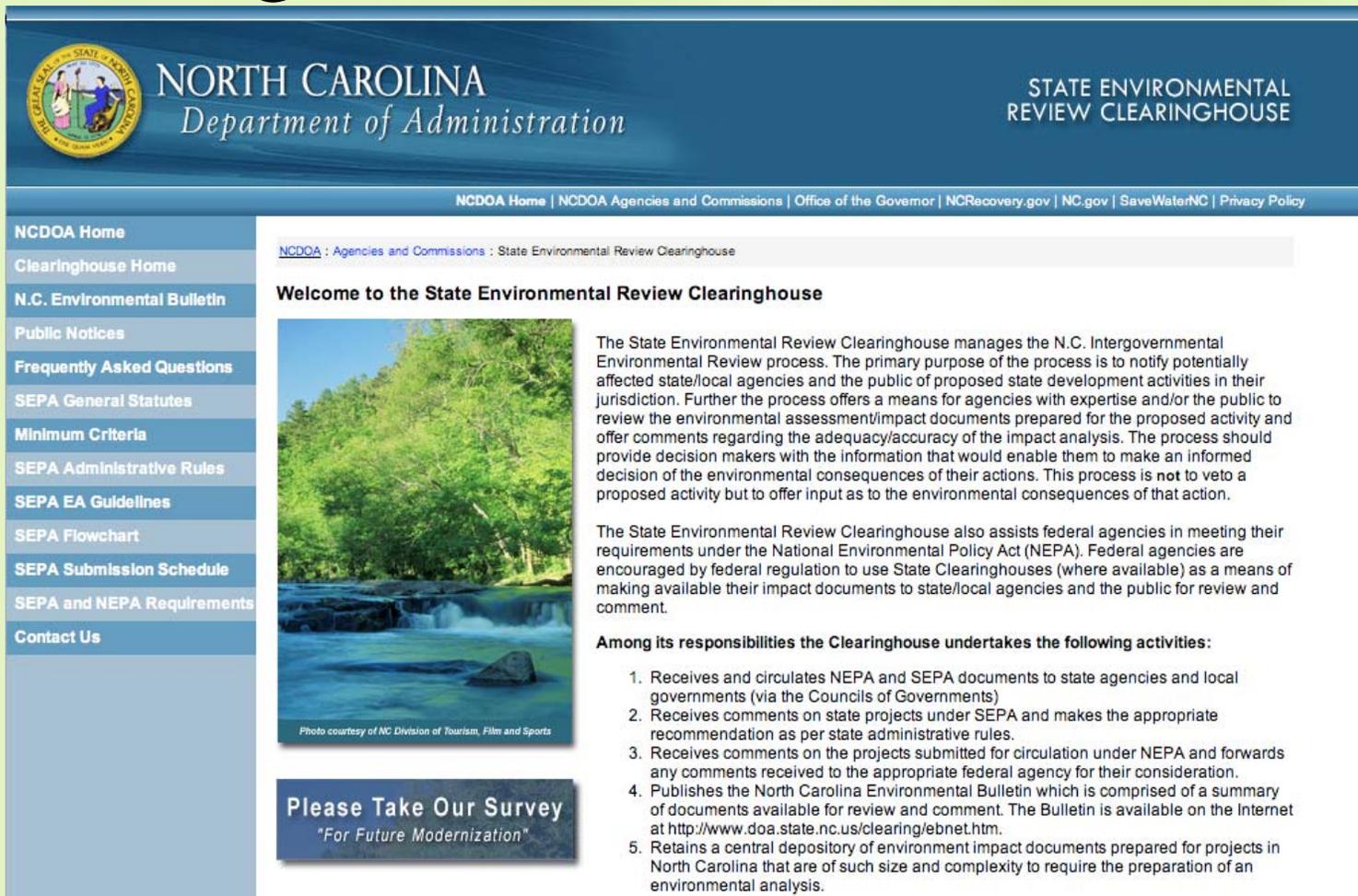
- ✿ Scoping Letter
- ✿ Environmental Assessment (EA)
- ✿ Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- ✿ Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- ✿ Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
- ✿ Record of Decision (ROD)



State Environmental Review Clearinghouse Survey *"For Future Modernization"*

- ✿ Evaluate our website and procedures
- ✿ Tell us how we can modernize and streamline
- ✿ 14 quick questions

The State Environmental Review Clearinghouse Website



NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Administration

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW CLEARINGHOUSE

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SEPA General Statutes
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SEPA Administrative Rules
SEPA EA Guidelines
SEPA Flowchart
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Welcome to the State Environmental Review Clearinghouse

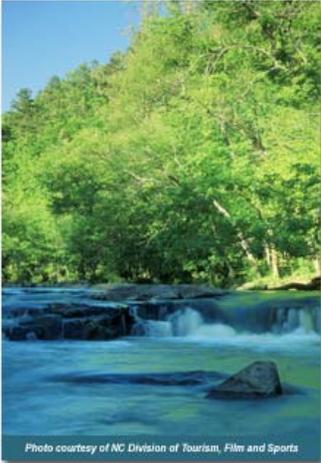


Photo courtesy of NC Division of Tourism, Film and Sports

The State Environmental Review Clearinghouse manages the N.C. Intergovernmental Environmental Review process. The primary purpose of the process is to notify potentially affected state/local agencies and the public of proposed state development activities in their jurisdiction. Further the process offers a means for agencies with expertise and/or the public to review the environmental assessment/impact documents prepared for the proposed activity and offer comments regarding the adequacy/accuracy of the impact analysis. The process should provide decision makers with the information that would enable them to make an informed decision of the environmental consequences of their actions. This process is **not** to veto a proposed activity but to offer input as to the environmental consequences of that action.

The State Environmental Review Clearinghouse also assists federal agencies in meeting their requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Federal agencies are encouraged by federal regulation to use State Clearinghouses (where available) as a means of making available their impact documents to state/local agencies and the public for review and comment.

Among its responsibilities the Clearinghouse undertakes the following activities:

1. Receives and circulates NEPA and SEPA documents to state agencies and local governments (via the Councils of Governments)
2. Receives comments on state projects under SEPA and makes the appropriate recommendation as per state administrative rules.
3. Receives comments on the projects submitted for circulation under NEPA and forwards any comments received to the appropriate federal agency for their consideration.
4. Publishes the North Carolina Environmental Bulletin which is comprised of a summary of documents available for review and comment. The Bulletin is available on the Internet at <http://www.doa.state.nc.us/clearing/ebnet.htm>.
5. Retains a central depository of environment impact documents prepared for projects in North Carolina that are of such size and complexity to require the preparation of an environmental analysis.

Please Take Our Survey
"For Future Modernization"

<http://www.doa.nc.gov/clearing/index.htm>

STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS & HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW

NC General Statute 121-12(a) requires that all state agencies, whose projects may affect a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places take the historic property into consideration and consult with the NC Historical Commission, if the project will adversely affect a listed property.

A historic property for purposes of the statute is any building, site, structure, object, district, landscape, or traditional cultural property that is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. However, you should be aware of properties that may have already been determined eligible for listing and for which there may be an advocacy group.

In general, to be listed in the National Register a property must be at least 50 years old, meet one of the following criteria:

- Significant in American historic or prehistory,
- Associated with an important person, place or event,
- An excellent example of a particular style or type of architecture or construction, or
- Likely to yield information important to an understanding of history or prehistory.

To determine if a state construction project is likely to affect a historic property, submit the following items to the State Historic Preservation Office at 4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4617 as soon as you know you have a project.

(No email submittals, please)

- **Description of the proposed project**
- **Map clearly showing the project location**
- **Description of prior land use**
- **Photographs of any buildings or structures on or immediately adjacent to the project site that appear to be at least 50 years old or older. Key these to the map.**

The State Historic Preservation Office will provide comments to you within approximately 3 weeks and let you know if there may be an effect upon a historic property. It will also inform you, if a property has been designated as a historic landmark under a local zoning ordinance or is in a locally designated historic district. If so, your project will have to comply with the local ordinance and receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the local preservation commission.

Any requirement for a federal permit, such as a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, may require additional review and comment.

Questions? Contact: Renee Gledhill-Earley, Environmental Review Coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or Renee.Gledhill-Earley@ncdcr.gov