

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

Agency Address / Web site

Chairperson
Council on Environmental Quality
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[Council on Environmental Quality \(CEQ\)](#)

MnDOT Contact

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Authority

Congress established the CEQ within the Executive Office of the President as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Procedural provisions of NEPA ([40 CFR 1500-1508](#)) are CEQ regulations for overseeing the implementation of NEPA policies.

Additional responsibilities were provided by the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970.

Agency Role(s)

The Council on Environmental Quality coordinates federal environmental efforts and works closely with federal agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives. NEPA assigns the CEQ the task of ensuring that federal agencies meet their obligations under the Act.

In addition, CEQ reports annually to the President on the state of the environment; oversees federal agency implementation of the environmental impact assessment process; and acts as a referee when agencies disagree over the adequacy of such assessments.

The CEQ developed the federal rules for the NEPA process, but has delegated to the U.S. EPA its role in reviewing federal EIS documents. The role of the CEQ consists of establishing the process for review of federal EA and EIS documents.

NEPA assigns the CEQ the responsibility of ensuring that federal agencies meet the obligations of the Act.

Agency Areas of Concern

CEQ becomes directly involved in the EIS process only in cases of extraordinary controversy.

Agreement(s)

[Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the CEQ](#)

Procedures / Requirements

The CEQ referral process permits federal agencies such as the FHWA or EPA to bring to the CEQ other interagency disagreements concerning proposed major federal actions that might cause unsatisfactory environmental effects. Under CEQ regulations, 40 CFR Part 1504, any federal department or agency may refer a proposed major federal action to CEQ no less than 25 days after the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been made available to the public, commenting agencies, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

CEQ does not receive copies of documents, unless the U.S. EPA refers a controversial EIS to the CEQ for mediation.