

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY PROCESS



The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1963, a federal law, requires that federal agencies consider impacts to the natural and human environment before making decisions on certain actions, such as issuing permits for a proposed project. The Louisiana International Terminal will need federal permits because its proposed footprint overlaps with the Mississippi River, Mississippi River levee, and wetlands.

## WHAT'S AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

A government document that provides the highest level of environmental review. It studies the potential impacts of a project on the physical, cultural, human, and natural environments, and identifies actions to minimize the negative impacts. It also looks at alternatives to the proposed project that could serve the same purpose.

**Public feedback is an important and legally required part of the study process.**

## WHO WILL WRITE IT?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for the impact study document. An independent third-party contractor, chosen by the Army Corps, will conduct the research and write the EIS. The Port of New Orleans will review the work and provide additional information and suggestions, but the Army Corps has the final say on the study's content and permit decisions.

Study topics may include, but are not limited to:

**ROAD, RAIL & BARGE TRAFFIC NOISE**  
**WATER AND AIR QUALITY**  
**BUSINESSES, JOBS, AND THE ECONOMY** **HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**  
**WILDLIFE** **WETLANDS & NATURAL HABITAT**  
**COMMUNITIES, NEIGHBORHOODS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

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## THE PROCESS

In January 2022, the Army Corps accepted the Port's permit application, which triggered the environmental impact review. Next, the Army Corps must select a third-party contractor before the following process can begin.

Public input is collected throughout the process to make sure the EIS includes the things community members care about and that public comments and feedback are considered in the final version.

### SCOPING

The Scoping process defines the impacts that need to be studied. It also involves public meetings.

Public input:

- What concerns do you have?
- What topics should we study?
- Are there alternatives we should consider?



A neutral third-party contractor gathers data and conducts studies to understand the project's likely impacts.

### DRAFT EIS

The Draft EIS presents the likely impacts of the Louisiana International Terminal on nature and people as well as alternatives.

Public input:

- Does the Draft EIS address the issues you identified?
- Does the Draft EIS propose sufficient ways to address negative impacts?



### FINAL EIS & RECORD OF DECISION

The Final EIS includes updates to address public comments on the Draft EIS. The Record of Decision ends the impact study process and states whether a permit will be issued by the Army Corps for the project.

Public input:

- Does the Final EIS address comments made during the draft phase?



Army Corps permit issued for project as modified during the impact study process. Construction may begin.

ANTICIPATED 2-3 YEAR TIMELINE