Jacobs Challenging today. Reinventing tomorrow.

Jacobs Excels at Right-sized & High-quality NEPA

We Use Our Integrated NEPA Process to Achieve Success

The fundamental principles of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are inspirational—ensure informed decision making and disclose potential environmental impacts to the affected public. However, compliance is often viewed as a burdensome and time-consuming process, though this does not have to be the case. As part of our proven NEPA process, Jacobs works with clients to tailor the NEPA process based on their needs and objectives, while **delivering legally and technically defensible documents**.

We use an **integrated process** that focuses on critical elements to achieve project success (Figure 1). As part of the NEPA process, we work with clients to establish appropriate schedules, identify internal and external stakeholders, and resolve issues that could most affect the NEPA process.

We have completed thousands of NEPA documents throughout the country for a myriad of clients. In all these cases, the NEPA process is **customized to the client's needs** while simultaneously adhering to the requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and agency regulations.

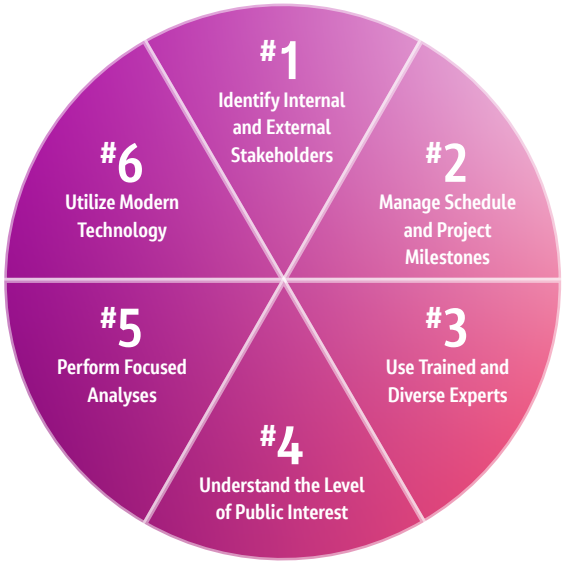


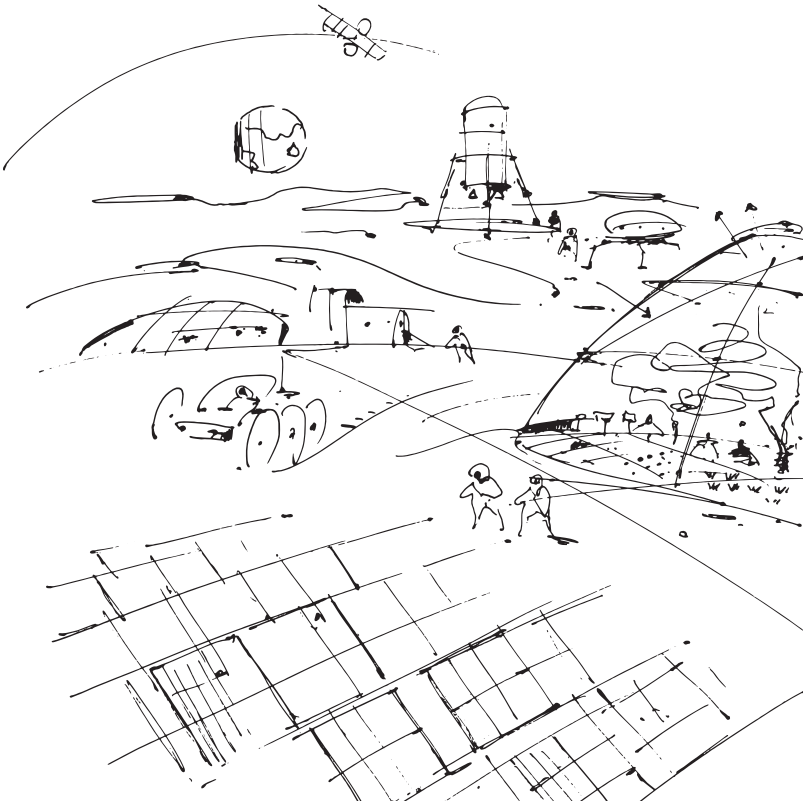
Figure 1. Jacobs' integrated process addresses all components of successful delivery for NEPA projects.

Our NEPA experience extends across many federal agencies and ranges from simple environmental assessments (EAs) to complex and controversial Environmental Impact Statements (EISs).

When appropriate, we work to keep the NEPA process **simple and focused**. In these cases, we work to meet critical milestones, streamline the document, and focus only on topics of greatest concern, without compromising defensibility of the NEPA document or the implementation of the proposed action.

However, **we can also support the most complex NEPA actions**. In these cases, the proposed action may be highly complicated, involve numerous stakeholders with separate agendas, and have the potential for significant environmental impacts. In these more challenging situations, we work with the client to navigate the complexities and build a right-sized approach. This often includes pulling from our diverse and technically skilled staff of engineers, scientists, historians, and economists located throughout the United States (U.S.). We also have access to the latest **cutting-edge technology** to help with modeling, graphic design, and create virtual public engagement platforms.

We help clients achieve **cost-effective, high-quality, on-schedule NEPA** compliance by bringing proven NEPA expertise, local knowledge, project management, technical tools, and full-service support.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Santa Susana Field Laboratory

Jacobs has supported the NEPA effort at National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Santa Susana Field Lab in Simi Valley, California, for nearly 10 years, including an EIS in 2014 and a supplemental EIS in 2020. The EIS process was complicated, involving many locations within the site; variable combinations of contaminants, cleanup options, and impacts; and diverse stakeholders, including local activists, celebrities, and local, state, and federally elected officials.

We prepared all documents and studies required under NEPA, including biological surveys, noise studies, traffic assessments, and a wetland delineation. We also completed a formal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation (including a biological assessment), a formal National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation, and a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis. We aided in the public involvement process and managed responses to the more than 4,000 individual public comments received on the draft EIS. **Our team delivered all the required documentation without missing a deadline or exceeding the budget.**

Radioisotope Heater Units EA

The Jacobs team worked in partnership with NASA's Division of Science Mission Directorate, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Air Force (USAF), and the Federal Aviation Administration to create a programmatic environmental assessment for the use of radioisotope heater units (RHUs) in spacecraft. The NEPA programmatic approach resulted in potential savings of approximately $20 million per nuclear enabled launch. **Our senior technologists across diverse disciplines collaborated to help NASA navigate the complex intertwining of nuclear safety without compromising NEPA compliance.** This resulted in a document that was concise and focused on real concerns.

National Geospatial Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers & U.S. Air Force

Next NGA West Campus

Jacobs completed a 17-month, expedited EIS for the National Geospatial Agency (NGA). NGA's Western Headquarters facilities, located southwest of downtown St. Louis, Missouri in the historic St. Louis Arsenal, was outdated and in need of modernization. With funding earmarked by the U.S. Congress and construction planned to begin within 2-years, completion of the EIS within an expedited timeframe was imperative. The accelerated schedule was a challenge, given the controversial nature of this proposed project and the participation of multiple stakeholders.

The EIS considered four potential locations: three sites in Missouri and one at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. Given the $1.6 billion scope and potential relocation of up to 1,345 highly skilled government employees, the project was high profile and politically charged.

We assisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in responding to public comments that criticized the controversial selection of the Agency preferred alternative (St. Louis City Site). To maintain the aggressive schedule, we synthesized the complex feedback into a revised document within weeks.

The American Planning Association (APA) Federal Planning Division recognized the NGA EIS with the Citation Award for the Outstanding Environmental Planning Project.

We also collaborated with the USACE, NGA and USAF to navigate many issues that threatened to stall the project, formulating approaches as necessary to resolve issues quickly. These issues included environmental justice, community cohesion, threatened and endangered species, hazardous material remediation, transportation, and cultural resources.

We used state of the art models, effective management techniques, sophisticated public engagement protocols, and close agency coordination to effectively address every aspect of the project.

U.S. Air Force

Headquarters Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Overseas Support

Jacobs prepared an environmental review (ER), under provisions of Executive Order 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions, and U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) 6050.7, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major DoD Actions.

These directives further NEPA's purpose with respect to the environment outside the U.S. and its territories and possessions. The ER analyzed the impacts associated with the increased USAF's use of Royal Australian Air Force bases Darwin and Tyndall for aircraft training, interoperability exercises, and humanitarian missions.

We worked directly with Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, and the Royal Australian Air Force to ensure both U.S. and Australian environmental standards were addressed.

This project required an understanding of Australian environment sensitivities and identification of appropriate significance thresholds, which was particularly challenging because U.S. standards do not apply in Australia, and the U.S. is not held to Australian standards. Ultimately, **we were able to work with the Air Force attorneys to identify appropriate significance thresholds and provide a technically and legally sound final deliverable more than 3 months ahead of schedule**. All environment issues involved with the proposed action were identified and addressed, allowing the USAF to take early action on necessary measures to minimize impacts.

Jacobs' project experience demonstrates our diverse team's expertise in delivering expedited, innovative, and complex NEPA documents, tailored to the client's needs and objectives.

U.S. Army

Fort Irwin Flight Landing Strip

In support of the expedited construction of the C-17 Flight Landing Strip at Fort Irwin, Jacobs prepared an EA and conducted extensive natural and cultural resources monitoring. We prepared a streamlined EA document and expedited deliverables to meet the accelerated construction schedule. As a result, **we successfully completed a legally sound EA in 72 days from the notice to proceed to the signed Finding of No Significant Impact**. This allowed construction to proceed as scheduled.

We also performed biological and cultural resources monitoring to support the continuous and aggressive flight- landing strip construction schedule. Survey and monitoring work were conducted under harsh summer heat conditions, over long days, to accommodate mission training activities and the expedited runway construction. Our staff took appropriate safety measures to facilitate environmental protection, while not interfering with mission critical training efforts.

U.S. Navy & U.S. Air Force

Military Land Withdrawal

Jacobs is supporting the USAF and the Department of the Navy at the Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR) in southwestern Arizona.

The BMGR covers approximately 1.7 million acres, most of which are BLM public land withdrawn and reserved for military purposes; the current withdrawal expires in October 2024.

We have been awarded three related task orders (TOs). The first two TOs involved developing comprehensive plans and the technical studies and analyses required for the NEPA process. The final TO uses the information in the earlier TOs to complete two land withdrawal application packages, prepare a legislative environmental impact statement (LEIS), and complete the case file in accordance with the BLM requirements (43 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 2300). These activities include supporting public and agency outreach and notifications; making recommendations for National Register of Historic Properties eligibility determinations for Section 106 consultation; making recommendations regarding the need to update or revise existing memorandums of agreement, memorandums of understanding, or other agreements; and coordinating ESA Section 7 compliance. In addition to engaging the public through the NEPA process, the LEIS will inform Congress of continuing need for the BMGR and provide information and analysis.

Additionally, each of the observatories required ESA section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NHPA Section 106 consultation development of Programmatic Agreements with the respective state historic preservation offices and the Advisory on Historic Preservation. Despite these unique challenges, **we effectively supported all three EISs using an interdisciplinary team and successfully delivered all three EISs in a 2-year time period**.

The Arecibo Observatory EIS won the APA Planning Federal Planning Division Citation Award for the Outstanding Environmental Planning Project.

National Science Foundation

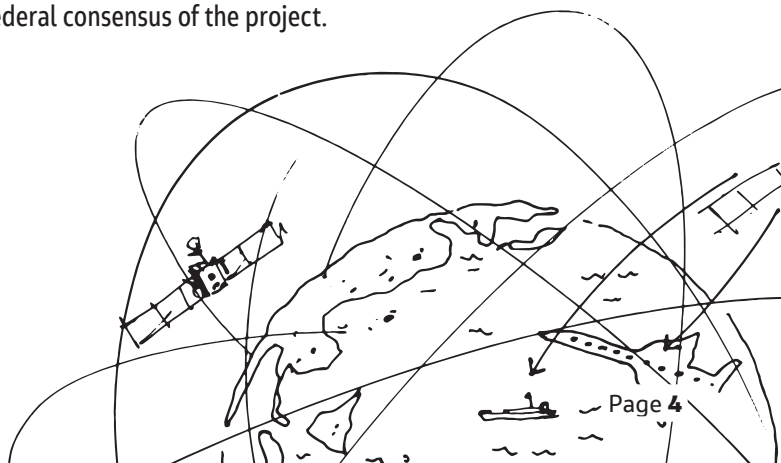
Division of Astronomical Science Telescopes EISs

Jacobs completed three separate EISs for the potential transfer or demolition of National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded telescopes in geographically diverse regions, including the Arecibo Telescope in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, the Greenbank Telescope in West Virginia, and the Sacramento Telescope located in New Mexico. All three telescopes are world renowned for ground-breaking discoveries in astronomical science, and public interest in the fate of each observatory was high. While each observatory has its own unique features and challenges, consistent themes in public interest included potential socioeconomic and environmental justice impacts. We prepared and managed multiple public meetings in English at each location, and additionally in Spanish in Puerto Rico. The meetings were attended by local media, international research scientists, and local residents, who spoke passionately about the potential loss of research and educational opportunities. During the public scoping and draft EIS review periods, we organized thousands of public and agency comments by categorizing the comments and preparing responses by theme, providing NSF efficiencies.

National Ecological Observatory Network

Jacobs' multi-site EA for the National Ecological Observatory Network involved the installation of climate change – monitoring technology, on public and private lands, at more than 60 locations nationwide and in Puerto Rico.

To maintain the project schedule and save costs, we developed an approach for the assessment of cultural resources and protected species that allowed for initial site selection based on desktop analysis, with micro siting occurring based on the finding of later surveys. **This innovative approach involved complying with NEPA protocol for geographically dispersed sites under the umbrella of a single EA, rather than multiple documents.** The single EA also allowed for a phased strategy and early state and federal consensus of the project.



Department of Energy

Project Icebreaker

Project icebreaker is a demonstration-scale offshore wind facility in Lake Erie, approximately 8 miles offshore of Cleveland. This proposed project consists of six turbines with a generating capacity of 21 megawatts. The Department of Energy (DOE) proposed to provide funding to LEEDCo's Project Icebreaker to support development of clean-energy technologies. Jacobs serves as the third-party contractor to the DOE for the NEPA environmental review process, working closely with DOE and its cooperating agencies, the USACE and the U.S. Coast Guard, to develop the necessary documents and materials required for the environmental review process.

We coordinated with the DOE, cooperating agencies, and LEEDCo to review and assemble project- and location-specific data and information. We prepared a draft EA and worked with the DOE to ensure that the document met NEPA requirements for public distribution and public notice. Following publication of the draft EA, we participated in public open houses, coordinated and managed public comments and responses, and prepared the final EA.

Southern California Edison

Renewable Transmission Lines

The Southern California Edison Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP) is a multi-billion-dollar electrical transmission line, consisting of a series of new and upgraded, high-voltage electric transmission lines and substations, to deliver electricity from new and planned wind farms on the Tehachapi Wind Resources Area to the Los Angeles Basin and San Bernardino County.

When complete, the TRTP can deliver up to 4,300 megawatts of wind-generated energy. Jacobs supported Southern California Edison with siting, environmental and regulatory review, and implementation, as well as technical evaluation and strategy support to comply with the California Environmental Quality Actand NEPA. During construction, we provided management tools, processes, and plans; mitigation monitoring and reporting; agency coordination support, mitigation measure review, clarification, and plan preparation; photographic document; geographic information system support; change management; and management of subcontractor team members. We are now supporting construction of a new fire lookout to mitigate visual resources.

Contact Us

Michelle Rau
NEPA Practice Lead
1 719 331 5699
Michelle.Rau@jacobs.com

Kira Zender
Client Solutions Lead
1 404 966 0821
Kira.Zender@jacobs.com

http://www.jacobs.com
Follow us @JacobsConnects

NOTE: Jacobs acquired CH2M HILL, Inc. in December 2017. Projects are representative of the combined resources and expertise of both firms, but may have been completed by either entity prior to the acquisition.