



Land Port of Entry Modernization Project - Norton, Vermont

National Environmental Policy Act - Public Scoping Meeting





- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting
- Project Information and Background
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Overview and Process
- Project Resource and Impact Areas
- Submitting Public Comments



- Paul Hughes, GSA, Regional Public Affairs Officer
- Ryan Long, WSP USA Inc., Assistant Vice President, Environmental Planner
- Adam Hunter, GSA, Project Manager
- Kelly Morrison, GSA, Community Engagement Specialist
- Missy Mertz, GSA, NEPA Specialist
- Carey Bergeron, NEPA Specialist
- Sara Massarello, GSA, Realty Specialist



What is the purpose of this meeting?

Scoping is an early public involvement process to help determine which issues the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will address. GSA welcomes public input on what resources and issues are important to you. Today we will:

- Share project information with you
- Describe the NEPA Process
- Inform you of the next steps in the NEPA Process
- Provide you with information on how to make comments on the project



Land Port of Entry Modernization Project - Norton, Vermont

National Environmental Policy Act - Project Information





The purpose of this project is to modernize the Norton LPOE to address CBP, GSA, and the public's needs:

- Increase inspection and operational capabilities
- Meet new and evolving security requirements
- Incorporate new sustainability features and technologies
- Increase resilience to climate change
- Meet everyday needs of the GSA, CBP, and the public
- Allow for easier and safer public flow through the port
- Address traffic pattern concerns
- Resolve topographic issues



Project: Anticipated Schedule



Plan	Design	Construct
NEPA Complete: 2025	Start: Fall 2024 Complete: Spring 2026	Start: Fall 2026 Complete: Fall 2028





Land Port of Entry Modernization Project - Norton, Vermont

National Environmental Policy Act - Overview and Process





What is the National Environmental Policy Act?

NEPA requires Federal agencies (GSA) to consider the potential impacts to the natural and human environment from their proposed action and disclose the potential impacts in a document that is circulated for public review.

GSA will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document potential impacts from the proposed action (the Norton LPOE Project).

Throughout the NEPA process, the public has opportunities to submit written comments to GSA about the Norton LPOE Project including the scoping period (now), and during public review of the Draft EIS.

GSA will review all written comments and consider substantive comments during the preparation of the EIS. All comments will be part of the administrative record and be included in appendices to the EIS.



The NEPA Umbrella



National Historic Preservation Act

Clean Air Act

Clean Water Act

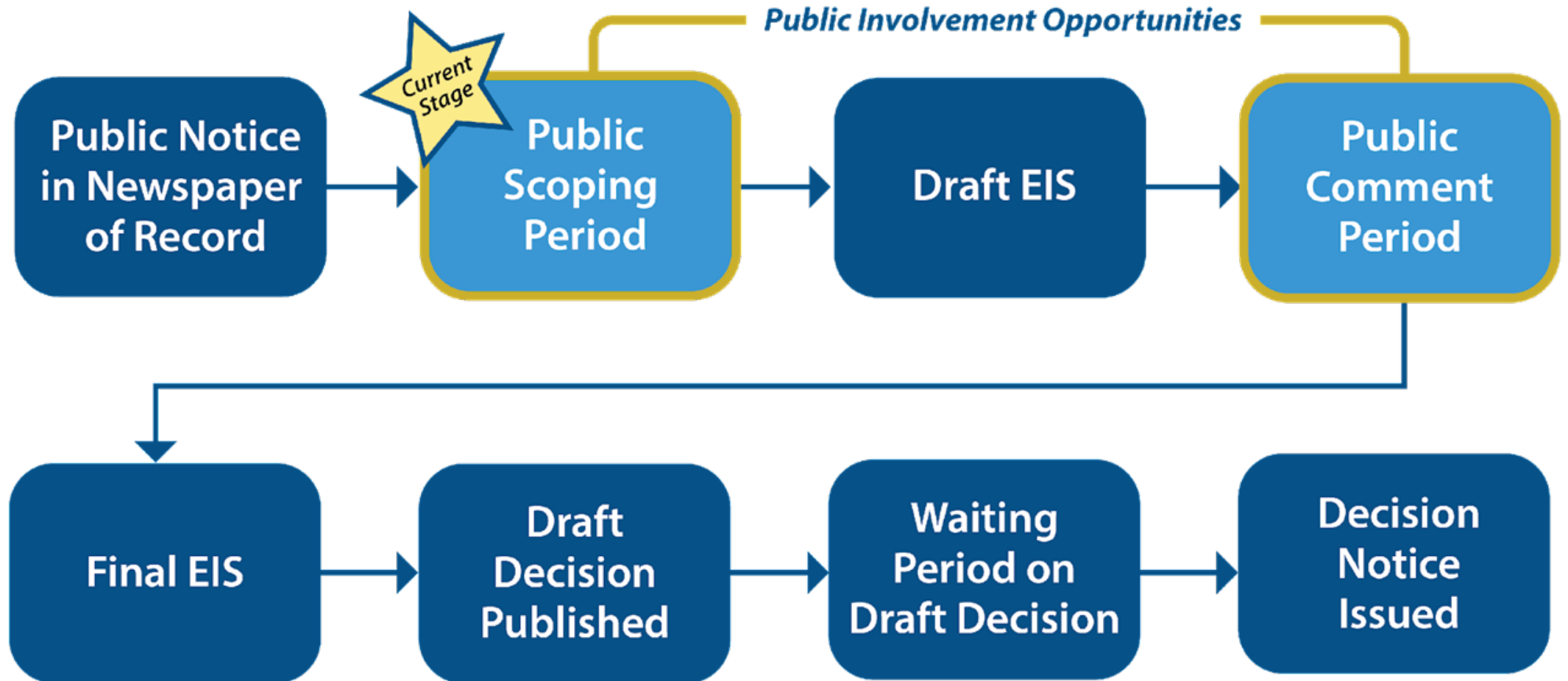
Archeological Resources Protection Act

Endangered Species Act

Environmental Justice



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Timeline





Documenting Existing Conditions (the Affected Environment)

The EIS includes a description of the resources that may be impacted by the proposed action. For this project examples of the resource areas we anticipate to be analyzed are:

- Climate Change
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice
- Noise
- Cultural Resources
- Biological Resources
- Water Resources
- Utilities
- Traffic & Public Transportation
- Floodplains



Project Resource Area: Cultural Resources



Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1996 (NHPA) requires GSA to consider the effects of federal undertakings on historic properties.

Step 1: Initiate Section 106

GSA identifies potential stakeholders and creates a plan for public involvement.

Step 2: Establish the Area of Potential Effect (APE)

The geographic area that the project may impact is established.

Step 3: Identify Historic Resources

Historic resources that are either listed in or are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are identified through survey, research, and public input.

Step 4: The potential effects of identified historic resources are evaluated. If there are no potential adverse impacts, the process may end here.

Step 5: If there are potential adverse effects, GSA will explore measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those effects.

The resolution may result in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Programmatic Agreement (PA) recording the agreed upon measures to resolve the adverse effects.



Project Resource Area: Wetlands



- Field surveys will be conducted to determine the presence and extent of wetlands and/or waterbodies in the project area and evaluate potential impacts.
- Certain activities that may impact wetlands and waters of the United States require authorization under the Clean Water Act (CWA).
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (Vermont DEC) are responsible for issuing CWA permits.
- If impacts to wetlands are unavoidable, the GSA would comply with all USACE and Vermont DEC permitting requirements to minimize or mitigate impacts.

Project Resource Area: Floodplains



- Under Executive Order (E.O.) 11988 (Floodplain Management) GSA is required to evaluate the effects of our actions on the floodplain.
- GSA is required to attempt to locate all structures outside of the floodplain area in compliance with federal regulation and GSA's Floodplain Management Desk guide and P100.
- The current Norton LPOE is located in a FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplain.
- GSA will study the floodplain area near the Norton LPOE to determine 100- and 500-year flood elevations and possible risks.



Project Resource Area: Biological Resources



- GSA will evaluate the Project Area to determine if any threatened or endangered species may be present.
- The Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires GSA to consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) when taking an action that may affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat.
- GSA will consult with the USFWS to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species and their habitats if necessary.

Project Resource Area: Community Items



In the EIS, GSA will analyze items raised during our Community Listening Session on August 23, 2023, such as:

- **Light pollution**
- **Traffic and Circulation -**
 - Change in LPOE building footprints and/or LPOE site area
 - Changes to surrounding roads and coordination with Vermont Agency of Transportation
 - Traffic increase through and around the LPOE
 - Other than cars/trucks - snowmobiles, farm equipment, bikes, etc.
- **Utilities and Community Resources -**
 - Water availability for fire department use
 - Internet access



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National Environmental Policy Act - Submitting Public Comments





Tell us what you think!

Written Comments must be submitted by **March 8, 2024.**

In Person: Fill out a comment form and leave it here with us tonight or have your comment recorded by our stenographer.

Send written comments to:

U.S General Services Administration
Attention: Adam Hunter, Norton Project Manager
Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Federal Building
10 Causeway Street, 11th Floor
Boston, MA 02222-1077

Send email to:

Norton.LPOE@gsa.gov

Reference "Norton LPOE EIS" in
the subject line



Commenting Etiquette

- Please utilize the microphone
- Say and spell your first and last name at the start of your comment.
- Remain quiet while others are speaking for stenographer.
- Verbal comments will be held to a 2-minute time limit.
- If time allows, participants may be permitted to speak again after all commenters have had the opportunity to speak. Additional comments can also be submitted in writing.
- A recording of the meeting will be made available, and your comments will be included in the administrative record.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

