

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 3 of this Final EA provides the affected environment (existing conditions) associated with the Proposed Action and the alternatives as they are described in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 is organized by environmental issue area as follows:

- 3.2 Recreation
- 3.3 Transportation
- 3.4 Air Quality
- 3.5 Noise
- 3.6 Biological Resources
- 3.7 Cultural Resources
- 3.8 Visual Resources
- 3.9 Cumulative Effects

Detailed technical analyses were prepared for some of the environmental issue areas. The relevant technical information supporting the documentation is provided in appendices to this document. The appendices include:

- Appendix A Traffic Impact Analysis
- Appendix B Air Quality Technical Worksheets
- Appendix C Noise Technical Study
- Appendix D Floral And Faunal Compendia; Sensitive Plant Species Table
- Appendix E Heritage Resources Letter
- Appendix F Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation
- Appendix G Ecosign Study
- Appendix H Visual Resources Assessment

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the term significant takes into account both context and intensity. Context means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. In the case of a site-specific action, significance depends upon the effects in the locale. Both short- and long-term effects are relevant. Intensity refers to the severity of the impact. In determining intensity, the following factors are considered: 1) impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse; 2) the degree to which the action affects public health and safety; 3) unique geographic characteristics, such as proximity to cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas; 4) the degree to which

the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial; 5) the degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks; the degree to which the action may establish precedent; 6) whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts; 7) the degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources; 8) the degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or habitat; and 9) whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.