The NEPA Process

Agency identifies a need for action and develops a proposal.

Are environmental effects likely to be significant?

- **NO**
  - Proposed Action is described in agency categorical exclusion (CE)

- **YES**
  - Significant environmental effects uncertain or no agency CE
    - Significant environmental effects may or will occur
      - Notice of intent to prepare environmental impact statement (EIS)
        - Public scoping and appropriate public involvement
          - Draft EIS

  - Develop environmental assessment (EA) with public involvement to the extent practicable
    - Significant environmental effects?
      - **YES**
        - Finding of no significant impact
          - Decision
            - Implementation with monitoring as provided in the decision

- **NO**
  - Are there extraordinary circumstances that result in substantial adverse effects?
    - **YES**
      - Significant environmental effects?
        - **YES**
          - Draft EIS

  - Decision

*Significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns or substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns may necessitate preparation of a supplemental EIS following either the draft or final EIS or the Record of Decision (CEQ NEPA Regulations, 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9(c)).*