

CHAPTER 3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS

3-1. National environmental policy

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) sets forth the policy of the Federal Government, in cooperation with State and local governments and other concerned public and private organizations, to protect and enhance environmental quality. All Federal agencies, in response to NEPA, must be concerned not only with the technical and economic aspects of their activities but also with the impact on the environment (CFR 40, 1500-1508).

3-2. U.S. Army environmental quality program

AR 200-1 outlines the Army's fundamental environmental policies, management of its program, and its various types of activities. The overall goal is to "plan, initiate, and carry out all actions and programs in a manner that will minimize or avoid adverse effects on the quality of the human environment without impairment of the Army mission."

3-3. U.S. Air Force environmental quality program

AFR 19-1 enunciates Air Force policy in compliance with the above-stated NEPA, executive orders and

Department of Defense directives. Procedures outlined are similar to those described for Army installations. AFR 19-2 establishes policies, assigns responsibilities and provides guidance for preparation of environmental assessments and statements for Air Force facilities.

3-4. Environmental effects

Arctic and subarctic military facilities could have either beneficial or adverse environmental impacts, affecting the air, the water, the land, the local ecology and the socio-economic environment. Despite low population density and minimal development, the fragile nature of the ecology of the Arctic and Subarctic has attracted the attention of environmental groups interested in protecting these unique assets. For Army projects, guidance in preparing required Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) can be requested from the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign, Illinois. Air Force installations can obtain guidance in preparing the required EIA or EIS, or both, from the Major Command Environmental Coordinator or from HQ USAF/LEEV, Washington, D. C.