



# Horse Heaven Draft Environmental Impact Statement Overview

*Reviewing the Draft EIS*

# What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

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Provides information about the adverse environmental impacts of the proposal to both the built and natural environment.



Provides an opportunity for public review prior to the Final EIS.



Decisionmakers use the Final EIS along with other information to decide whether to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the proposal

# How is the Draft EIS organized?

Document Contents	Chapter Description
Executive Summary	
Chapter 1 Project Background and Purpose and Need	Chapter 1 provides background information on the proposed Project and states the Project purpose and need as provided in the Application. The chapter also outlines the steps undertaken to date in the SEPA review process, describes public, agency, and tribal involvement to date, and identifies federal, state, and local permits that would apply to the proposed facility.
Chapter 2 Proposed Action and Alternatives	Chapter 2 provides detailed descriptions of the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning activities proposed for the facility. It explains the Applicant's Proposed Action, provides an evaluation of alternatives to the Proposed Action, and describes the No Action Alternative. Applicant commitments and proposed best management practices are collated and presented here.
Chapter 3 Affected Environment	Chapter 3 has been subdivided into separate sections that describe the existing environment for 15 separate resources.
Chapter 4 Impacts, and Mitigation Measures	Chapter 4 focuses on impacts that may occur to environmental resources from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed facility for the 15 resources presented in Chapter 3.
Chapter 5 Cumulative Impacts	Chapter 5 describes potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action when combined with potential impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable developments that could occur within similar spatial and temporal settings.
Chapter 6 References	Chapter 6 provides a complete list of literature cited references used throughout the Draft EIS.
Chapter 7 List of Contributors	Chapter 7 identifies those who contributed to the preparation of the Draft EIS.
Chapter 8 Glossary	The glossary defines many of the terms used in the Draft EIS.
Chapter 9 Distribution List	The distribution list identifies organizations and individuals who were sent an electronic copy of the Draft EIS.



# Some Pointers for Reviewing the Draft EIS

Understand the overall organization of the document

- Chapters
- Subsections in Chapters 3 and 4, and
- Appendices.

# Commenting on the Draft EIS



USEFUL COMMENTS WHICH CAN  
AFFECT THE CONTENT IN THE FINAL  
EIS



SOME TOPICS ARE OUTSIDE THE  
SCOPE OF THE EIS



# Final Environmental Impact Statement

- Changes between the Draft EIS and the Final EIS are expected and normal
  - During the EIS process,
    - Projects/applicants respond to the identified environmental impacts
    - The project description, applicant commitments, and agency-identified mitigation typically evolves
  - A Final EIS includes:
    - Responses to public comments
    - More analysis, when warranted, responding to those comments
    - New information/analysis responding to project changes
    - More or refined mitigation