

National environmental policy act



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

In 1969, our Country, and our environment were screaming for help!

Scientists, Ecologists, Wild Life Experts and a whole laundry list more came up with an agency to protect our environment. Today we call it the National Environmental Policy Act or (NEPA) of. The Law was officially in acted January 1st 1970, by Richard Nixon. When the Country cried out for help and wanted someone to step In after a series of major environmental accidents. Off the shores of Santa Barbara a major oil spill destroyed thousands of miles of ocean water, and marine life.

This wasn't the only environmental Issues going on. Areas in and around Pittsburg in the late 1960's had a large smog or dense air pollution that had residents up in arms. Also in Cleveland , Ohio, water pollution in the rivers, streams, and lakes In the Cuyahoga. These events forever changed our environment, and that's when the first piece of significant federal legislation was in acted. Other acts followed: the clean air act, the national ambient air quality standards, the clean water act (1972), endangered species act (1973).

Another major driving force for enacting NEPA were the freeway revolts that occurred in response to the bulldozing of many communities and ecosystems around the country, as the Interstate Highway system was being built during the 1960's. The law has since been applied to any project, federal, state or local, that involves federal funding, or work performed by the federal government, or permits issued by a federal agency. The essential purpose of NEPA is to ensure that environmental factors are weighted equally when compared to other factors in the decision making progress under taken by federal agencies.

The act also establishes the President's council on environmental quality (CEQ). The CEQ was established, to advise the President in the preparation of the annual environmental quality report addressing the state of federal agencies in implementing the act, on national policies. The Council on Environmental Quality, which is headed by a fulltime Chair, oversees NEPA. A staff assists the Council. The duties and functions of the Council are listed in Title