

REGULATORY UPDATE

FAA Order 1050.1G National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures

August 13, 2025

FAA Order 1050.1G

June 2025

- Public comment period ended August 4.
- Updated regulations are effective immediately, but final version has not yet been released.



Responds to recent rescission of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Implementing regulations (Effective April 2025) and a variety of Executive Orders and Supreme Court decisions.



Cancels FAA Order 1050.1F, Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures



Rescinds FAA Order 5050.4B, NEPA Implementing Instructions for Airport Actions, ONLY where it conflicts with 1050.1G.

Goals



Provide streamlined procedures that maintain environmental amenities and protection.



Reduce delays that may impede aviation safety improvements, infrastructure development, and integration of entrant technologies.



Provide a clear, concise, and up-to-date statement of the FAA's requirements for implementing NEPA.

Substantive Changes since Order 1050.1F

Deadlines and Page Limits Enforced

- Clearly defined NEPA start date
- 1 year, 75 pages for EA
- 2 years, 150 pages for EIS

Narrower Scope

- FAA to focus only on impacts it can regulate
- No climate analysis
- No environmental justice analysis
- No cumulative impact analysis
 - Consider reasonably foreseeable for project only
- No analysis of indirect and secondary impacts
- Coastal resources
 - To be determined – likely to remain

Substantive Changes since Order 1050.1F

- **New Categorical Exclusions** – As long as no extraordinary circumstances
 - Heliports and vertiports on existing airport or commercial space launch site
 - Tree trimming or removal to remove obstructions (outside of nesting/roosting season or after inspection by wildlife biologist)
 - Land use changes (acquisitions, land release)
 - Projects under \$6M in federal funding (similar to that proposed in FAA Reauthorization Act – Section 788(a) and (b))
- **No Expiration Date on CatEX, EA, or EIS**

One Big Beautiful Bill Act

- **Section 60026 – Provides project sponsor opt-in fees for environmental reviews.**
 - Would allow a project sponsor to pay a fee for preparation of an EA or EIS to secure even more expedited reviews (180 days for an EA and 1 year for an EIS).
 - Fee is set at 125 percent of the anticipated cost for the sponsor to prepare the EA or EIS or for the agency to supervise the preparation of the EA or EIS.

The FAA has not stated how they will implement the new law.

Discussion

