



The EIS Process for a Plan of Operations

1. PoO Completeness Review (30 days)

- Operator information
- Description of operations
- Reclamation plan
- Monitoring plan
- Interim management plan



1. Begin informal scoping

1. Draft NOI

2. Formal scoping

- Publish NOI in Federal Register
- Initiates formal public scoping period (45 days?)
 - 2 public meetings (*Vale and Ontario*)
 - *Identify issues for use in alternatives development*
 - Draft, review, finalize, and post scoping report to website
 - *Identifies issues raised during scoping process,*
 - *Issues to be addressed in the EIS,*
 - *And issues not to be addressed in the EIS and why*



2. Identify operational and baseline information necessary to conduct NEPA analysis

3. Develop Alternatives

- Workshop to develop alternatives
 - Evaluate potential impact of the PoO
 - Develop alternative(s) to address impacts of the PoO that may cause UUD
 - Develop alternatives to address issues identified during internal, public, or agency scoping
 - Usually at least 3:
 - *No action*
 - *Operator's PoO*
 - *Operator's PoO with BLM-added mitigation needed to prevent UUD*
- Draft, review, and finalize Alternatives Tech Memo with cooperating agencies

4. Prepare DEIS

- Analyze impacts of the alternatives
- Revise alternatives to prevent UUD or minimize resource conflict, if appropriate, and re-analyze
- Identify BLM's preferred alternative
- Draft, review, and finalize DEIS w/ cooperating agencies

5. DEIS Public Review

- Distribute DEIS to agencies & requesting parties
- File DEIS with the EPA who publishes NOA in Federal Register
- Initiates public comment period (60 days min.)
 - Public meetings
 - Draft, review, and finalize comment responses with cooperating agencies

6. Prepare FEIS

- Address substantive agency or public comments
- Identify BLM's proposed action
- Draft, review, and finalize FEIS w/ cooperating agencies

7. FEIS Public Review

- Distribute FEIS to agencies and requesting parties
- File FEIS with the EPA who publishes NOA in Federal Register
- Initiates required availability period (30 days min.)
 - Not a formal public comment period, but may receive comments

8. Issue Record of Decision on the PoO

- Draft, review, and finalize ROD
 - BLM's decision on the PoO:
 - *Approved as submitted, or*
 - *Approved subject to changes required to prevent UUD, or*
 - *Denied or approval withheld b/c does not meet content requirements or operations would cause UUD*
 - A list of any conditions of approval (*requires the operator to revise the PoO content*)
 - Final financial guarantee amount
 - Activities may not begin until bond instrument is accepted
- File ROD with EPA who publishes NOA to Federal Register

