

TIPS FOR WRITING DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) COMMENTS

- Keep your comments focused on the proposed project under consideration.
- Submit your comments within the timeframes announced to ensure that your concerns are considered and addressed.
- **Avoid** comments that state “I am in favor of this project” or “I am opposed to this project.”
- Back up your statements with explanations, facts, and references, as appropriate.
- Be specific and refer to page numbers and paragraphs: Remember that the more clear, concise, and relevant to the DEIS your comments are, the more effective they will be and the more likely it is that they will be utilized to improve the final documents and affect the final agency decisions.
- Please submit comments if you find:
 - An error in analysis that may affect the outcome
 - New information that would change the analysis and conclusions.
 - Something that should be clarified
 - A substantially different alternative that meets the purpose and need statement and has not been considered
- Consider topics such as:
 - Impacts to threatened or endangered species
 - Water quality
 - Historical and cultural impacts, particularly significance for indigenous peoples
 - Social and economical impacts to local communities (i.e. housing, fishing industry, jobs, tourism, businesses, property values, and considerations of aesthetics and noise)
 - Cost and schedule analysis for all of the actions and alternatives
 - Financial plans
 - Environmental mitigation plans
 - Plans for complying with any additional required federal, state, or local permits (ex: WPDES)
- Request the EIS to address concerns and pose questions.
- **NEPA also requires consideration of cumulative effects** of a proposed action so consider effects on the environment that can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time, noting specifically the long operational licensure timeframe of the reactors and the timeframe and cumulative impact of nuclear waste.
 - An example of a cumulative effect might be water releases to water bodies. One industry's multiple releases might not represent a significant impact to the temperature dependent limnological characteristics of the water body but the release from multiple sources might represent or cause a 0.5 degree Fahrenheit change in water temperature enough to reduce oxygen levels to a point that a valuable zooplankton species dies off starving off multiple fish species. This is in addition, to the changing temperatures of water bodies due to climate change.