

Session 11.

Preparation of an Alternatives Analysis

Technical presentation and dialogue

Summary

Alternatives analysis is a key component of the environmental assessment process through which issues are addressed and various options for fulfilling the purpose and need are evaluated for potential impact. This session will explain the role of alternatives analysis within an Environmental Assessment as well as key steps in preparing one.

22 CFR 216.6(c)(3) states that the Alternatives Analysis, “should present the environmental impacts of the proposal and its alternatives in comparative form, thereby sharpening the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision-maker. This section should explore and evaluate reasonable alternatives and briefly discuss the reasons for eliminating those alternatives which were not included in the detailed study; devote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail including the proposed action so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits; include the alternative of no action; identify the Agency's preferred alternative or alternatives, if one or more exists; include appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action or alternatives.”

Objectives

- Understand the role of Alternatives Analysis in the Environmental Assessment process.
- Understand how to develop an Alternatives Analysis, including:
 - How to identify and develop alternatives to the Proposed Action
 - How to describe alternatives
 - How to compare the alternatives