



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

## FACT SHEET: CEQ REPORT ON LENGTH OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

### Background:

- On August 15, 2017, President Trump signed [Executive Order 13807](#), which set a goal of completing reviews and authorizations for major infrastructure projects within two years, and directed the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to undertake actions to modernize the Federal environmental review process.
- To provide agencies and the public with information relating to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, CEQ has compiled data on the length, by page count, of environmental impact statements (EISs) prepared by Federal agencies.
- CEQ's NEPA regulations contain recommended page limits for the text of final EISs of normally less than 150 pages, or less than 300 pages for proposals of "unusual scope or complexity" ([40 CFR 1502.7](#)).
- CEQ evaluated 568 actions for which the Environmental Protection Agency published a notice of availability for a final EIS between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2017, and for which a record of decision was issued by June 7, 2018.

### Findings:

- CEQ found that across all Federal agencies, the average length for a draft EIS was 586 pages. Of the draft EISs reviewed:
  - The median document length was 403 pages;
  - One quarter were 288 pages or shorter; and
  - One quarter were 630 pages or longer.
- For final EISs, the average document length was 669 pages. Of the final EISs reviewed:
  - The median document length was 445 pages;
  - One quarter were 299 pages or shorter; and
  - One quarter were 729 pages or longer.
- On average, there was a 14 percent increase in document length from draft to final EIS.
- Of the final EISs reviewed, 7 percent were 150 pages or shorter and 25 percent were 300 pages or shorter.
- While CEQ's regulations on page limits do not apply to appendices attached to an EIS, CEQ found that draft EIS appendices averaged 591 pages and final EIS appendices averaged 1037 pages.
- The report is available [here](#) and the underlying data can be accessed [here](#).

### Additional Information:

- In December 2018, CEQ published a [report](#) on the amount of time Federal agencies took to complete EISs which found that the average time to complete an EIS was 4 and a half years.
  - This [report](#), [underlying data](#), and [fact sheet](#) can be found on CEQ's website [HERE](#).