

# Environmental Evaluation & Compliance in SMART Planning Feasibility Studies

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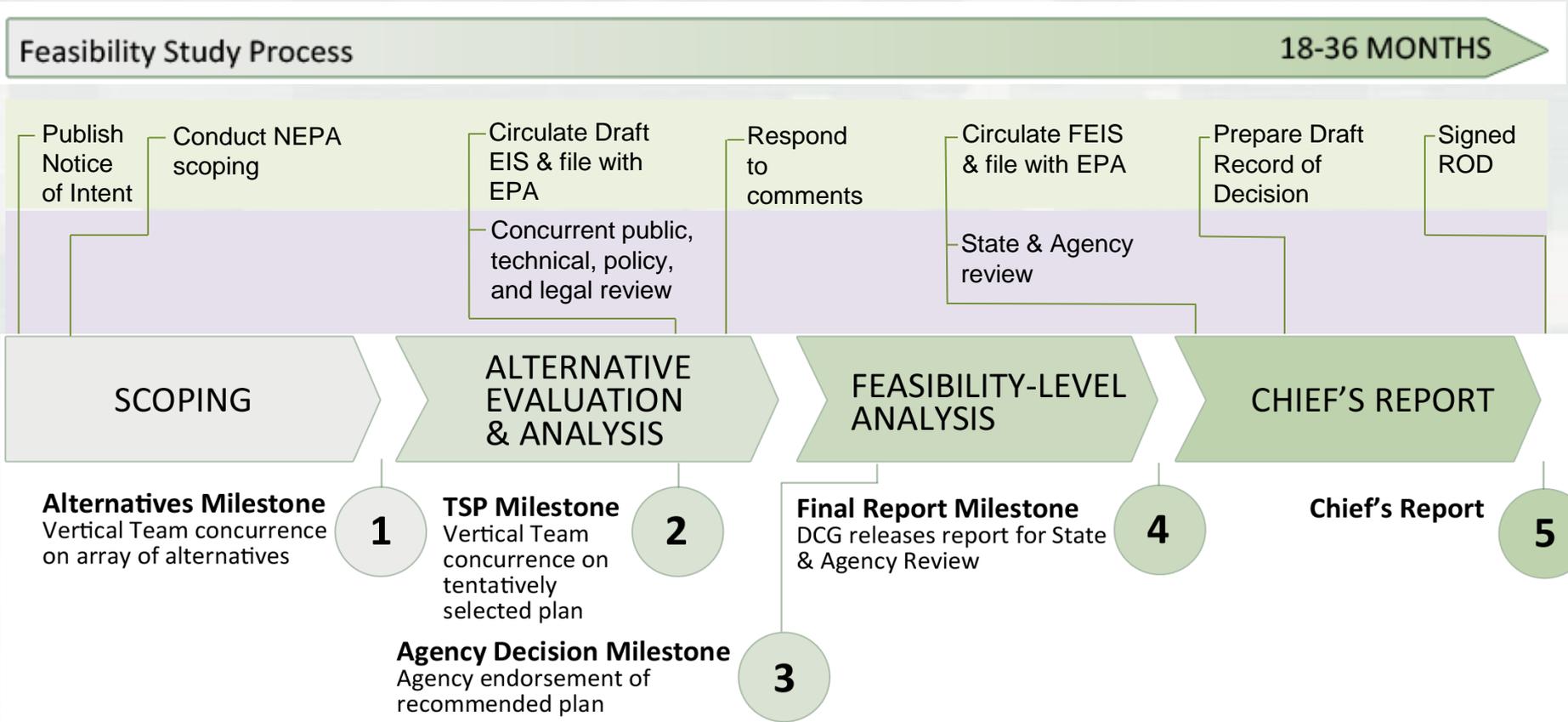


# Environmental Evaluation and Feasibility Studies

**BLUF:** SMART Planning feasibility study process and principles are consistent with the spirit of NEPA and CEQ's direction on NEPA implementation.



# SMART Feasibility Study Process



# From Study Launch to the Alternatives Milestone

- **Scoping—SMART Planning**
  - Useful tool
  - Formulation activity early in the study
  - Concluding with final alternatives and screening criteria
- **NEPA Scoping**
  - Formal process that must be followed
  - Should occur early
  - FWCA Coordination/ESA informal consultation



# From Study Launch to the Alternatives Milestone

- **Planning fundamentals are key**
  - Document what you do!
- **Alternative Development**
  - Purpose & Need of the proposed action
  - Screening alternatives based on criteria
  - Impact Analysis
  - Formulate with mitigation measures
- **All this leads to a *reasonable range* of alternatives:**  
the array at the Alternatives Milestone

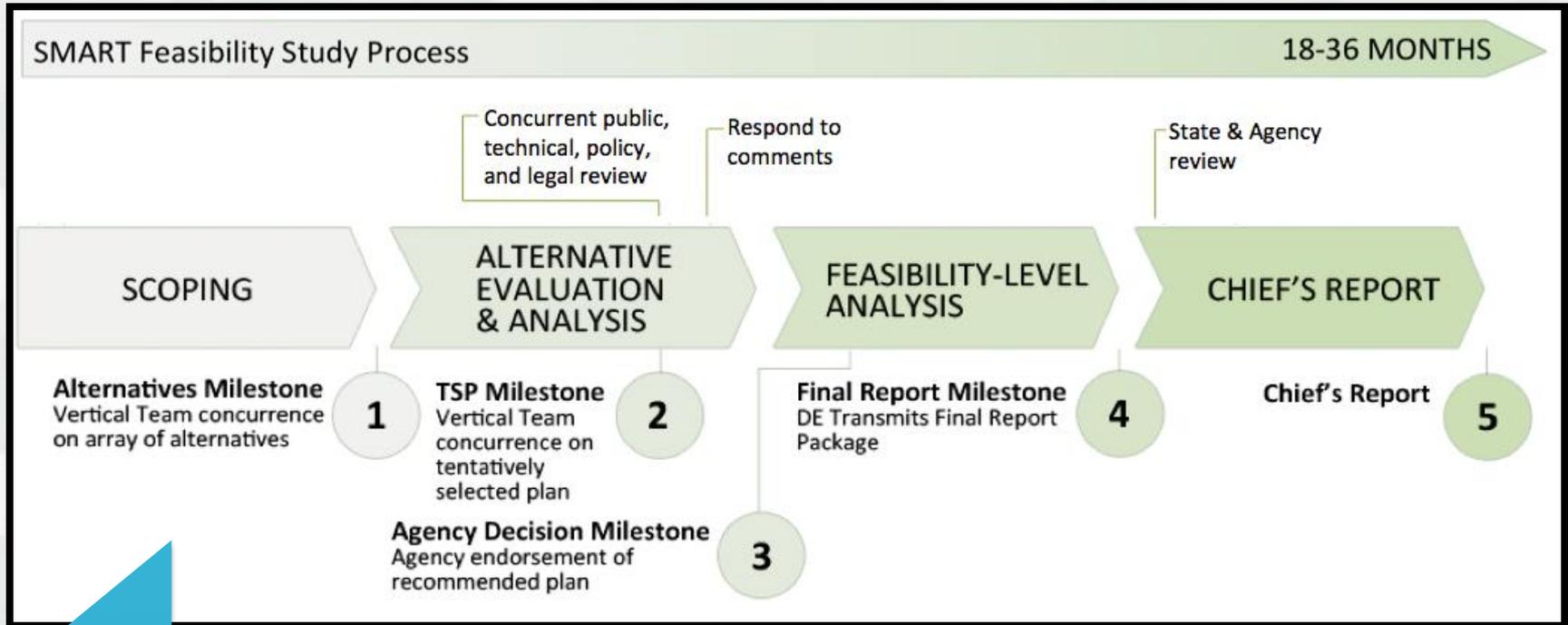


# Getting to the TSP

- **Planning fundamentals are *still* key**
  - Document what you do!
  - Alternative screening – be clear in your criteria and when alternatives were screened out
  - Evaluation / Comparison – be clear in criteria used to assess and compare alternatives
- **Input from Resource Agencies**
  - FWCA Planning Aid Letter/draft CAR
  - ESA technical assistance
- **All this leads to a Tentatively Selected Plan**



# The Tentatively Selected Plan



**Focus on alternatives evaluation to identify a tentative plan for more detailed design**

**Focus on scaling the measures and features for the recommended plan/LPP**



# Feasibility-Level Analysis

- Develop the detail needed on the recommended plan for the Final EA/EIS, including environmental impacts
- Further develop details on the mitigation plan



# Wrapping it Up

- **After Final Feasibility Report goes to HQ**
  - **FONSI** part of the Chief's Report package *or*
  - **Draft** Record of Decision (ROD) part of the Chief's Report Package
  - **ROD** signed by the ASA(CW)



# Integration is a Must

- **Integrated Feasibility Study Report and EA/EIS is SMART!**
- **It is also consistent with:**
  - Planning Guidance Notebook
  - ER 200-2-2: Procedures for Implementing NEPA
  - 40 CFR part 1500.2(c)
  - CEQ memos on modernizing NEPA



# Level of Detail in Feasibility Studies

- **Collect the right level of detail at the right time**
  - Requires early engagement of resource agencies
  - Level of detail will increase as the study progresses
- **Sufficient details are needed to distinguish between alternatives**
- **Level of detail commensurate with the issues**
  - Utilize risk register for environmental risks



# Tips for Success

- **Early engagement** – internal and external
- **Clearly communicate** your process and decision-making criteria
- **Utilize the risk register** it's a valuable tool
- **Be open to data and input** from outside the Corps



# Questions?

Type questions in the chat box.  
We will try to answer as many as  
time allows.

*For more information:*

<http://www.corpsplanning.us>



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