

Cumulative Impact Analysis

What is the definition of cumulative impacts?

Cumulative impacts are the combined impacts of multiple sources within any area of concern. The impacts of each individual source may fall below established parameters and regulated limits, but the aggregate of these impacts may have significant adverse impact on the environment and health of the community.

Environmental Justice Work Group (2001)

Why are we conducting cumulative impact analyses?

- Prevent environmental harms to low-income and minority communities.
- Determine whether there has been a reasonable effort to minimize the impacts on the community.
- Identify potential impacts and if significant adverse impacts are anticipated, either conduct or require an analysis of those cumulative impacts.

Under what circumstances are cumulative impact analyses conducted?

- Trigger permits in low-income and minority communities.
- Environmentally burdened communities.
- Communities with poor health.

What is the scope of cumulative impact analyses?

Study the cluster effect within a presumed area of concern and make decisions based on existing and proposed permitted and non-permitted activities.

The analysis may or may not be limited in scope (i.e. analyze water quality impacts only) depending on the existing statutory or regulatory authority.

In most cases, cross-program analysis will require additional legislative or regulatory authority.

What factors should be considered in a cumulative impact analysis?

- Cancer risk
- Non-cancer risk
- Susceptibility
- Respiratory problems
- Number of facilities
- Number of Trucks (associated with permitted facilities)
- Odors
- Vectors
- Noise pollution
- Light pollution
- Aesthetics
- Cultural impacts
- Toxicity
- Reported releases and other environmental data