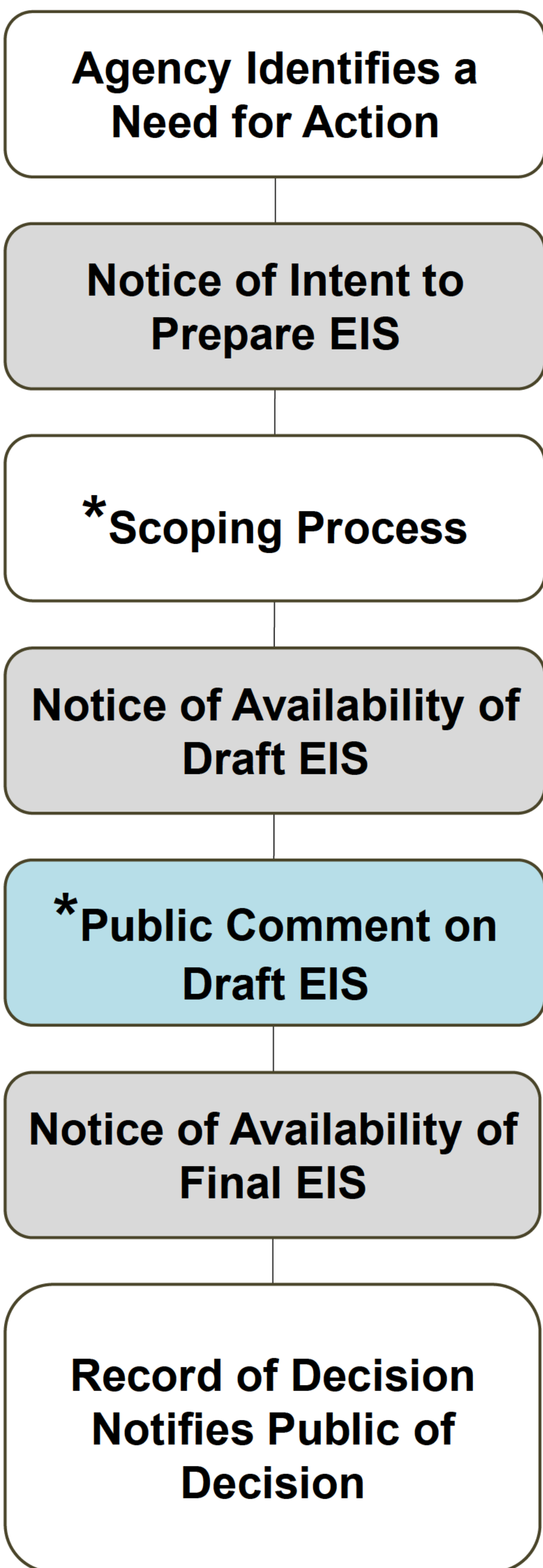




# SURPLUS PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION PROGRAM: WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for major actions that could have significant impacts on the environment.

Steps in the EIS Process



**The EIS Process:** The EIS process begins once a federal agency identifies that there is a need for a major action, and that development of an EIS is the right mechanism for providing information to the public and to decision makers.

**Notice of Intent (NOI):** A federal agency begins the scoping process for an EIS by publishing a NOI in the Federal Register (FR) to let the public know that it is considering an action and will prepare an EIS. The NOI for this project was published on December 16, 2020.

**Scoping:** During the scoping period, the public can provide comments on the proposed action, issues, and environmental impacts to be analyzed in the EIS. Scoping for this EIS occurred from December 16, 2020 to February 18, 2021. Scoping comments were considered during development of draft EIS.

**Notice of Availability (NOA) of Draft EIS:** The NOA is published in the FR to announce the availability of a draft EIS for public review and comment. The EIS presents the potential environmental impacts for the proposed action. The NOA for the draft EIS was published on December 16, 2022.

We Are Here

**Public Comment Period:** The comment period for this EIS starts with the publication of the NOA and ends on February 14, 2023. Public comments on the draft EIS are considered in the preparation of the final EIS.

**NOA of Final EIS:** Once the public comment period on the draft EIS has been completed, the EIS is revised, as needed, in response to public comments, and responses to public comments on the draft EIS are included in the final EIS.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** After the final EIS is published, a minimum 30-day waiting period is required before a ROD can be issued. The decision-making process may include consideration of factors such as cost, technical feasibility, agency statutory missions, and national objectives, as well as the potential environmental impacts of an action(s). No action can be taken until the decision has been made public. DOE will publish the ROD in the Federal Register and post it at <https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room>.

Under NEPA, “environment” includes the natural and physical environment such as:

- Air
- Water
- Geology
- Ecology
- Protected species

As well as people’s relationship with the environment such as:

- Human health
- Noise
- Socioeconomics, including regional economy, housing and traffic
- Visual resources
- Infrastructure
- Waste management
- Transportation
- Cultural resources

\*Opportunity for Public Participation