

THE APPLICATIONS PROCESS



Applications Customers' Awareness Day
June 9, 2006

Types of Applications Processed by NEPA

- ▶ Subdivision
- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Environmental
 - Permit (44 Prescribed Categories)
 - Trade and Sewage effluent Licences
 - Beach Licence
 - CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna)
 - Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste

Subdivision Application Process



Categories of Subdivision Applications

▶ 10 Lots & Over

(An Environmental Permit is also required)

▶ 9 Lots and Under

Types of Subdivision Applications

*Residential

*Industrial

*Commercial

*Agricultural

Main Issues of Concern in the Review of Subdivision, Planning & Environmental Applications

NEPA is concerned about :-

- ▶ Zoning
 - Existing Land use
 - Proposed Land use
- ▶ Urban Limits
- ▶ Retention of Agricultural Lands
- ▶ Lot Size
- ▶ Ingress
- ▶ Egress
- ▶ Traffic Flow
- ▶ Density
- ▶ Setback from road ways / gullies / canals coastal zone / rivers
- ▶ Open Space
- ▶ Parking
- ▶ Drainage
- ▶ Biological Resources
- ▶ Water Resources
- ▶ Protected Areas
- ▶ Sewage Treatment and Disposal
- ▶ Solid Waste Disposal
- ▶ Public Health
- ▶ Natural Hazards
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Infrastructure

NEPA- Circulates subdivision applications to other Agencies as required

Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management

National Works Agency

National Land Agency

Civil Aviation Authority

Jamaica National Heritage Trust

Urban Development Corporation

Jamaica Public Service Company Limited

Mines and Geology Division

Ministry of Health - Environmental Health Unit

Ministry of Land and Environment

Jamaica Bauxite Institute

Ministry of Agriculture - RPPD

National Irrigation Commission

National Water Commission

Water Resources Authority

Review of Subdivision Applications

Subdivision Applications are reviewed by:-

- ▶ Technical Branches
- ▶ Internal Review Committee
- ▶ Subdivision Committee (consist mostly of external members, NEPA provides admin. & technical support)

NEPA's Subdivision Applications Process

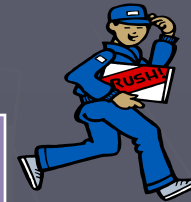


NEPA receives application along with site inspection report & recommendation from the Local Planning Authority (Parish Council).



NEPA assesses application for completeness.

NEPA returns incomplete application to Local Planning Authority.



For subdivision applications 10 lots & more, NEPA informs that a permit is required.



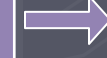
NEPA circulates application to the relevant Agencies.



NEPA collates comments from relevant Agencies.



NEPA Technical Branch processes application, including research & conducting site visits, if necessary.



If application is 9 lots and under and less than 5 acres.

If application is 10 lots and over and 5 acres and more.



NEPA and relevant Agencies review application at Subdivision Committee Meeting and make recommendations.

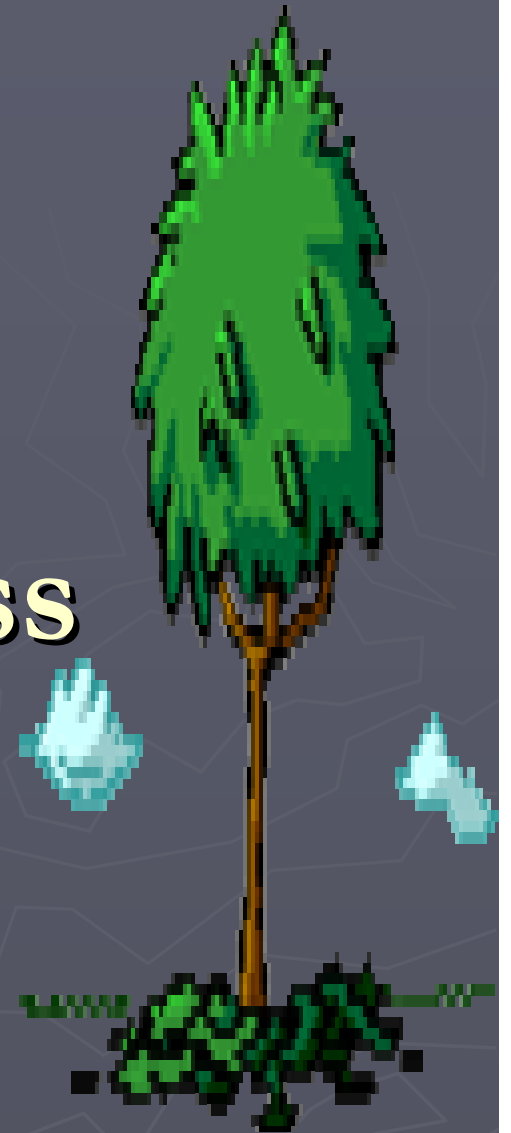


NEPA prepares and dispatches recommendations to the Local Planning Authority (Parish Council).

What happens after NEPA makes a recommendation on a Subdivision Application ?

- ▶ The Recommendation is forwarded to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) where a decision is taken ; whether an approval or a refusal is granted
 - Technical Review at the LPA
 - Conditions sent to the Applicant for acceptance
 - If conditions are accepted, they are then presented to the Council for a decision to be taken
 - If the conditions are not accepted, a reconsideration/waiver is requested
 - Application is then sent to the Minister for ratification
- ▶ Appeal - Applicant may appeal any of conditions or decision to the Minister.
- ▶ Monitoring & Enforcement by Local Planning Authority

Environmental Permit & Licence Applications Process



Permit and Licence System....

- ▶ The Permit and Licence System became effective January 1, 1997.
- ▶ A permit is required to undertake any construction or development of a prescribed nature anywhere in Jamaica and its Territorial Sea under the NRCA (Permits & Licences) Regulations, 1996.

Permit and Licence System ...

- ▶ A Licence is required for the handling of sewage or trade effluent and poisonous or harmful substances to be discharged into the environment.

In fact, the NRCA is not entitled to grant a permit or licence if, it is of the view, that the activity in question is likely to cause injury to the environment or to public health.

Who needs to apply?

- ▶ All persons whose projects fall within Prescribed categories

PRESCRIBED CATEGORIES

- Power generation plants above 1 MW
- Electrical transmission lines and substations greater than 69 kv
- Pipelines and conveyors with a diameter of greater than 10 centimetres
- Port and harbour development
- Subdivisions of 10 lots or more
- Housing projects of 10 houses or more
- Hotel/resort complex of 12 rooms or more
- Airports and airfields, including runway expansion greater than 20%
- Office complexes of 5,000 square metres or greater
- Eco-tourism and nature tourism projects
- Water treatment facilities, including water supply and desalination plants
- Sewage and industrial wastewater treatment facilities
- Mining, quarrying and mineral processing - bauxite, peat, sand, minerals
- Metal processing - ferrous metals, non-ferrous metals
- Chemical plants
- Pulp, paper and wood processing
- Petroleum production, refinery, storage and stockpiling
- Fish and meat processing
- Food processing plant
- Detergent manufacturing including manufacturing of soap
- Manufacturing of containers and package materials - cans, bottles, boxes, cartons
- Distillery, brewery and fermenting facilities
- Manufacturing of edible fats, oils
- Cement and lime production
- Paint manufacture
- Tanneries
- Manufacturing of pesticides or other hazardous substances
- Boxing plants
- Citrus, coffee, cocoa, coconut, sugar cane processing factories
- Manufacturing of textiles
- Solar salt production
- Construction of new highways, arterial roads, new roads on slopes greater than 20°, major road improvement projects
- Land reclamation and drainage projects
- River basin development and improvement
- Irrigation and water management improvement projects
- Watershed development and soil conservation projects
- Modification, clearance or reclamation of wetlands
- Dredging, excavation, clearing and reclamation of riverine, swamp, beach
- Solid waste treatment and disposal facilities
- Cemeteries and crematoria
- Introduction of species of flora, fauna and genetic materia
- Slaughterhouse and abattoirs
- Hazardous waste storage, transportation, treatment or disposal facilities
- Agro-processing and processing of agricultural wastes
- Felling of trees and clearing of land 10 hectares or more
- Clear cutting of forested areas and clearing of trees on land of 3 hectares and over on slopes greater than 25°
- **Golf courses**
- **Theme parks**
- **Transportation centres for more than 10 vehicles**
- **Construction or demolition of reservoirs, dams, dykes and aqueducts**
- **Railways, tramways and cable car operations**
- **Causeways and multiple span bridges**
- **Hospitals**
- **Shopping centres**
- **Aquaculture facilities and ponds**
- **Storage of scrap metal including derelict vehicles**
- **Offshore drilling for extraction of oil, natural gas or minerals**
- **Dry cleaning operations**
- **Shipyards**
- **Marinas and boatyards**
- **Introduction of genetically modified organisms**

What is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- ▶ In applying for a Permit or a Licence an EIA may be required. NEPA determines whether or not an EIA is required based on screening of the application and the conducting of relevant site visit(s).
- ▶ This is a study which outlines the impact the proposed project is likely to have on the area in which the physical development will be carried out. It also outlines mitigative measures necessary to reduce the negative impacts of the project.

How is the public involved in the EIA review process?

- ▶ Copies of EIAs are available at local public institutions for example: Libraries & Post Offices for consultation and review.
- ▶ Public presentations are held to get public comments on the proposed development. Comments must be submitted in writing to NEPA within thirty (30) days of the presentation.

Review of Environmental Permit and Licence Applications

Applications are reviewed by:-

- ▶ Technical Branches,
- ▶ Internal Review Committee
- ▶ Technical Review Committee
(external members)
- ▶ Natural Resources Conservation Authority
(Board Members)

What happens after the Permit or Licence is granted?

- ▶ **Appeal** - Applicant may appeal any of the conditions or decision to the Minister in charge of the Environment.
- ▶ NEPA reserves the right to revoke or suspend any permit or licence if stipulated conditions are not being upheld.
- ▶ Post permit monitoring will be conducted by NEPA to ensure that the stipulated conditions are met. Additionally, facilities are required to undertake self-monitoring and submit regular reports to NEPA.

What benefits will be derived Application Approval Process ?

The process:

- ▶ will enable enterprises / developments to optimize their productive processes (for example, site selection and site design and layout,)
- ▶ ensure the protection of the environment &
- ▶ ensure orderly development in order to achieve sustainable development in managing Jamaica's land, wood and water.

How do you apply for an Environmental Permit, Environmental Licence ?

- ▶ All applicants are required to complete an application form (for permit and/or licence and a Project Information Form (PIF).

These forms can be obtained at NEPA, the Regional offices of the Agency and the Parish Councils. They are also available through request by email and on the NEPA's website- www.nepa.gov.jm at Business Centre.

Guidelines & Standards

- ▶ Checklists
- ▶ Project Proponent
- ▶ Conducting EIA
- ▶ Generic TORs for conducting EIA
- ▶ Public Presentation
- ▶ Petroleum Storage
- ▶ Sewage Effluent
- ▶ Trade Effluent
- ▶ Developer's Manual (work in progress)

What is the cost of obtaining an Environmental permit or a licence ?

- ▶ Application for Permit or Licence -----\$2000.00 (non-refundable)
- ▶ Permit Fees range from \$15,000.00-\$25,000.00
- ▶ The cost of obtaining and renewing a licence is \$7,500.00. The licence is to be renewed every five (5) years. Application for renewal must be made two months prior to the expiration date of the licence. An additional fee of \$6,500.00 is charged for late renewals.

INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE APPLICATIONS PROCESSING

- ▶ Convene Workshops with the Local Planning Authorities
- ▶ Host Seminars with various target groups
- ▶ Facilitate presentation of proposals by potential applicants
- ▶ Pilot Project – Subdivision Applications
 - 9 lots and under are being processed in 3 Local Planning Authorities- KSAC, St. Ann and St. Catherine Parish Councils .

INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE APPLICATIONS PROCESSING (CONT'D)

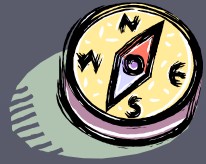
- ▶ Posting of information on Website- TORs & EIAs; Guidelines & Application Forms
- ▶ Review of the EIA process
 - New Procedures Manual for reviewing EIA Reports
 - Generic TORs for EIAs prepared
 - Revising the Guidelines for Conducting EIAs
 - New Application Forms
- ▶ AMANDA

How can you help an applicant to shorten the Approval Process

By :-

- ▶ giving clear /proper guidance to applicant on their proposal
- ▶ simply ensuring that the Application forms are completed correctly
- ▶ ensuring that all supporting documents are provided (e.g. Location Map, Layout Plan, Project Brief etc.)

DO NOT SUBMIT INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.



Contact Information

For further information, please contact:-

NEPA's Applications Secretariat
Branch

Telephone: 754-7540

Email: applications@nepa.gov.jm