

# SUFFICIENCY PROTOCOL

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## INTRODUCTION

Charles Eccleston describes a set of four tests to determine whether an environmental analysis is sufficient under the National Environmental Policy Act. The following questions are based on his article (“NEPA: Determining When an Analysis Contains Sufficient Detail to Provide Adequate Coverage for a Proposed Action,” *Federal Facilities Environmental Journal*, Summer 1995:37-50); read the article for complete discussion and application examples.

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- A. *Would more analysis contribute substantially to the understanding of environmental impacts?*
- B. *Would more analysis substantially change the agency’s decision?*
- C. *Would more analysis contribute substantially to the public’s understanding or acceptance of the proposed action or alternatives?*
- D. *Would more analysis result in new measures that could substantially reduce the project’s impacts?*

If any one of these questions is answered “yes,” analysis is not yet sufficient.

This protocol must be tempered with the guidance given in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, 40CFR 1502.22, which outlines a 4-step process for determining how to handle data that is difficult or impossible to obtain. Please refer to that guidance for more information.