## Spectrum of Engagement in NEPA Decision-Making

### INFORM

**Agency Commitment:**
Provide parties with comprehensive, accurate and timely information about its NEPA decision-making.

**Agency Goal:**
Provide sufficient objective information for parties to understand the issues being addressed through the NEPA process.

**Case Example:**

**NEPA Phase:**
Scoping, draft and final review and comment periods

**Processes:**
- Fact Sheets
- Newsletter
- Web Site
- Open House
- Panel Presentations
- Public Meetings

### CONSULT

**Agency Commitment:**
Keep parties informed and consider their concerns and suggestions on the NEPA process. Provide documentation of how their input was considered in the decision-making process.

**Agency Goal:**
Obtain feedback on issues in NEPA process, the alternatives considered, and the analysis of impacts.

**Case Example:**
*Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Bureau of Mines project*: On September 25, 2006 NPS and FWS jointly held meeting to receive comments on the draft EIS.

**NEPA Phase:**
All phases

**Processes:**
- Notice and Comment
- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Consultation
- Tribal, State, Public Meetings

### INVOLVE

**Agency Commitment:**
Communicate with parties to ensure that suggestions and concerns are addressed and reflected within legal and policy constraints when assessing environmental effects during the decision-making process. Provide iterative feedback on how their input is considered in the decision-making at various steps during the NEPA process.

**Agency Goal:**
Consistently solicit and consider parties’ input throughout the NEPA process to ensure that parties’ concerns are understood and addressed before the analysis of impacts is concluded and a final decision made.

**Case Example:**
*Grand Canyon National Park, Colorado River Management Plan*: Scoping meetings held throughout country to shape plan.

**NEPA Phase:**
All phases

**Processes:**
- Workshops
- Deliberate Polling
- Individual and/or group consultations
- Advisory committee

### COLLABORATE

**Agency Commitment:**
Work directly with parties at one or more stages of the NEPA process, seeking their advice and agreement on the purpose and needs statement, alternatives, collection and use of data, impact analysis, development of a preferred alternative, and/recommendations regarding mitigation of environmental impacts.

**Agency Goal:**
Directly engage parties in working through aspects of the NEPA process potentially including the framing of the issues, the development of a range of reasonable alternatives, the analysis of impacts, and the identification of the preferred alternative – up to, but not including, the agency’s Record of Decision.

**Case Example:**
*FHWA and DOL, St. Croix River Crossing: Collaborative EIS process* co-led by states of Wisconsin and Minnesota to reach agreement on bridge crossing St. Croix River.

**NEPA Phase:**
All phases

**Processes:**
- Individual and/or group consultations
- Advisory committee
- Consensus-building
- Facilitation
- Interagency working groups, mediation, joint fact finding