



The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Environmental Review Process for New Reactors

Jack Cushing
U.S. NRC

(Jack.Cushing@NRC.gov)



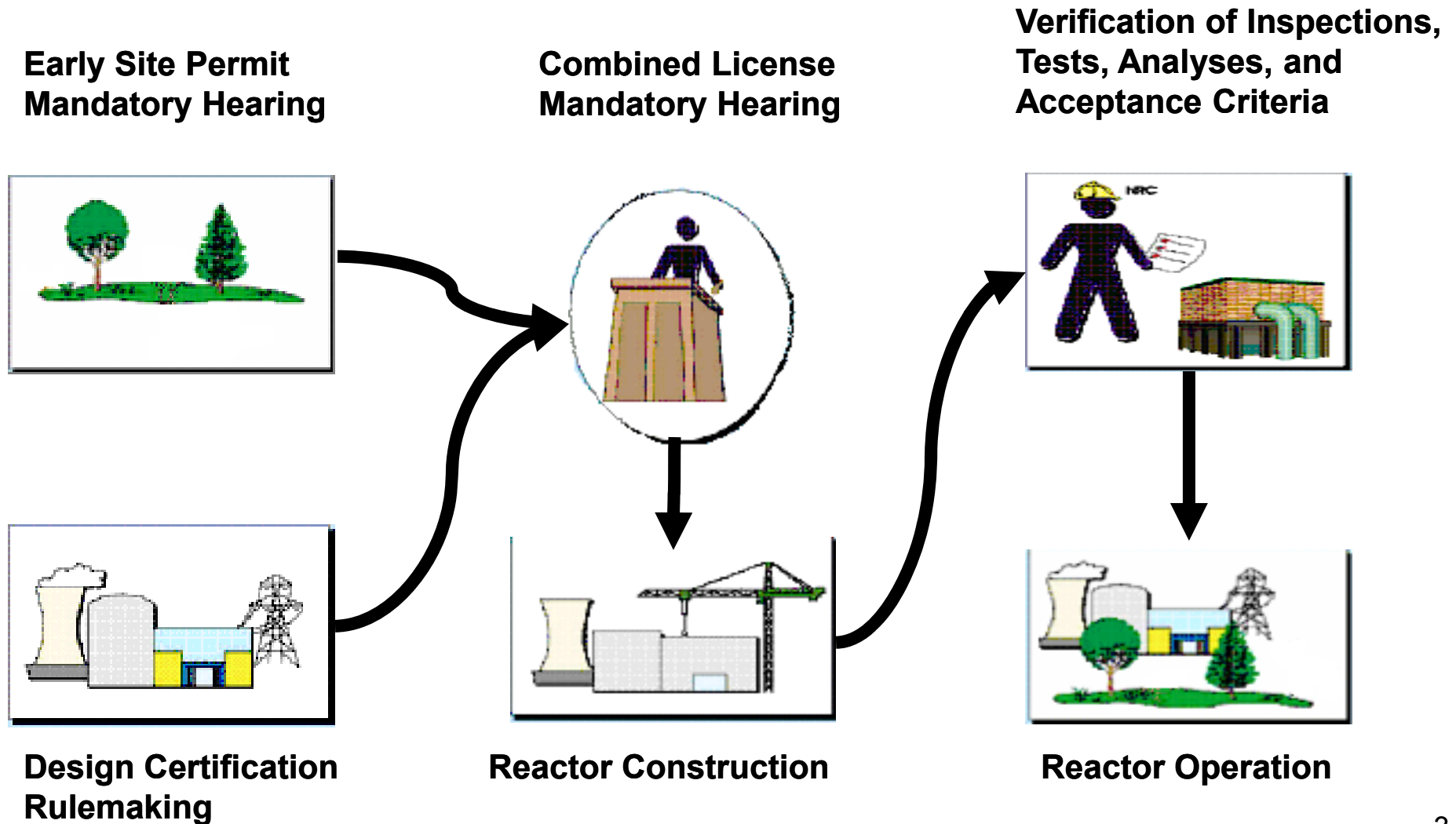
NRC's Mission

License and regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment.

NRC's Strategic Plan Objective

Enable the use and management of radioactive materials and nuclear fuels for beneficial civilian purposes in a manner that protects public health and safety and the environment, promotes the security of our nation, and provides for regulatory actions that are open, effective, efficient, realistic, and timely.

Combined License, Early Site Permit, and Design Certification





National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

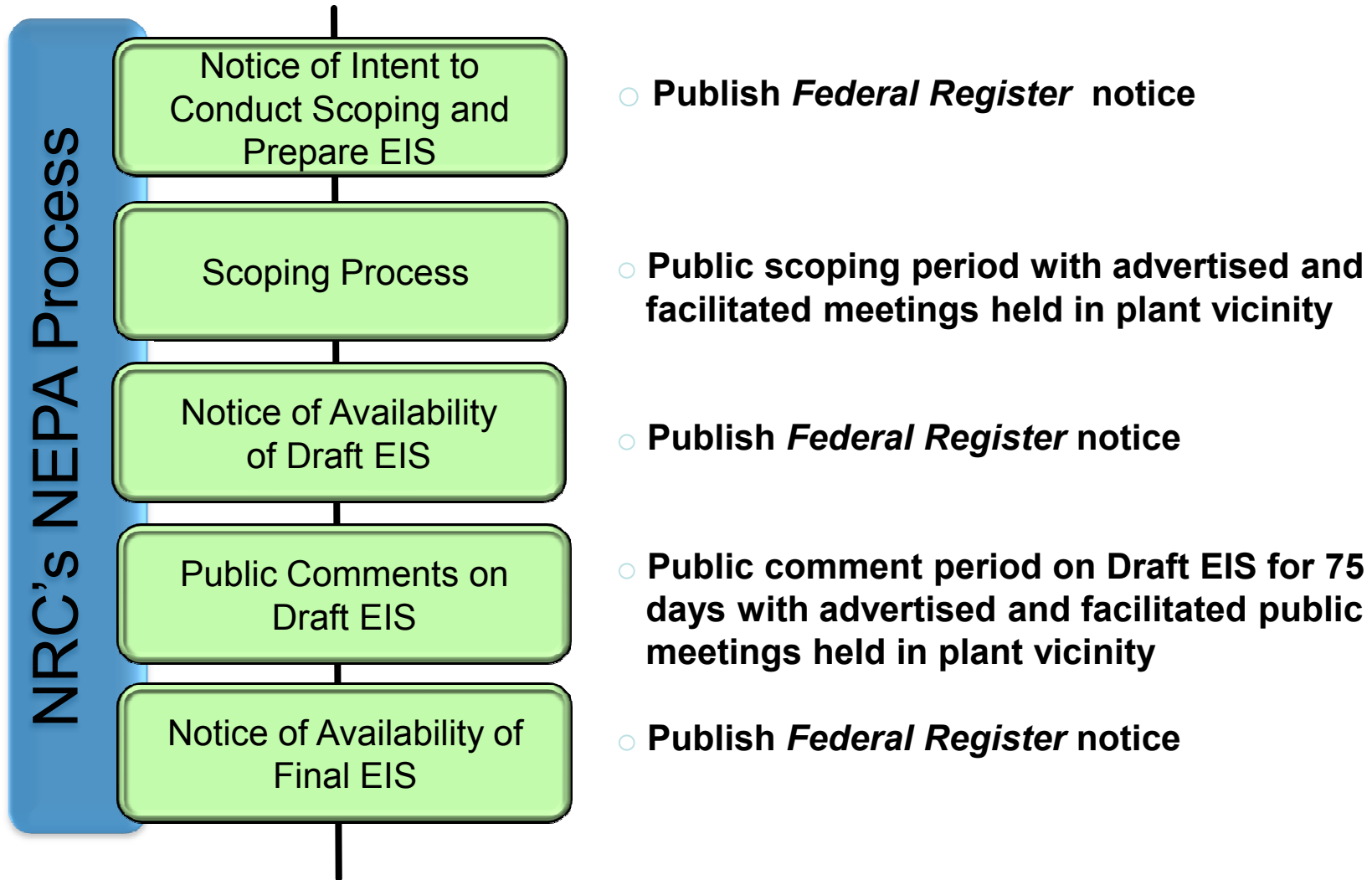
What is NEPA?

- NEPA is a national policy for the government to consider environmental issues in the conduct of Federal activities.

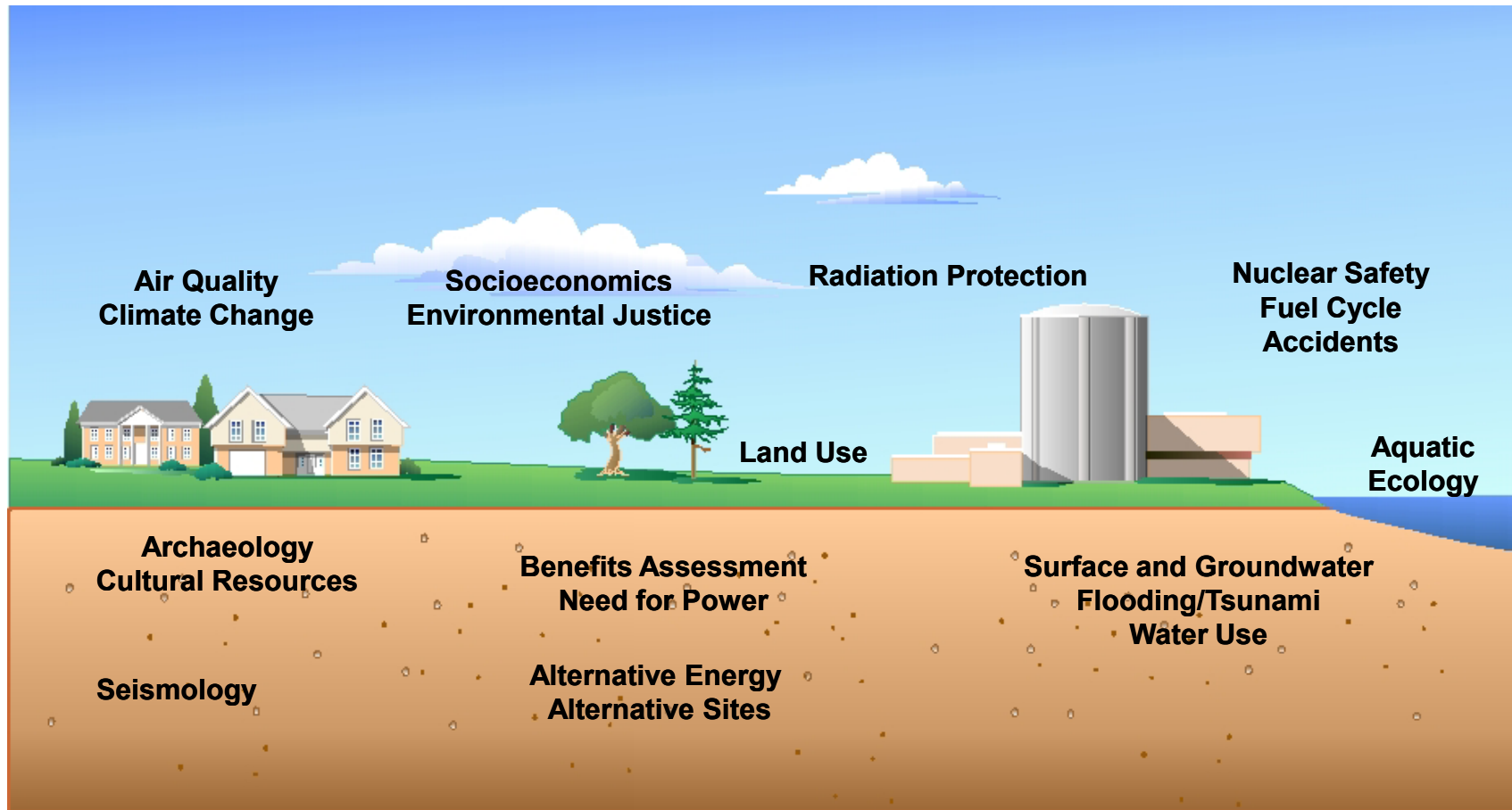
What does NEPA require?

- NEPA and the NRC's implementing regulations (10 CFR Part 51) require an environmental impact statement (EIS) for major Federal Actions significantly affecting the environment.

Environmental Review Process



Interdisciplinary Siting Issues



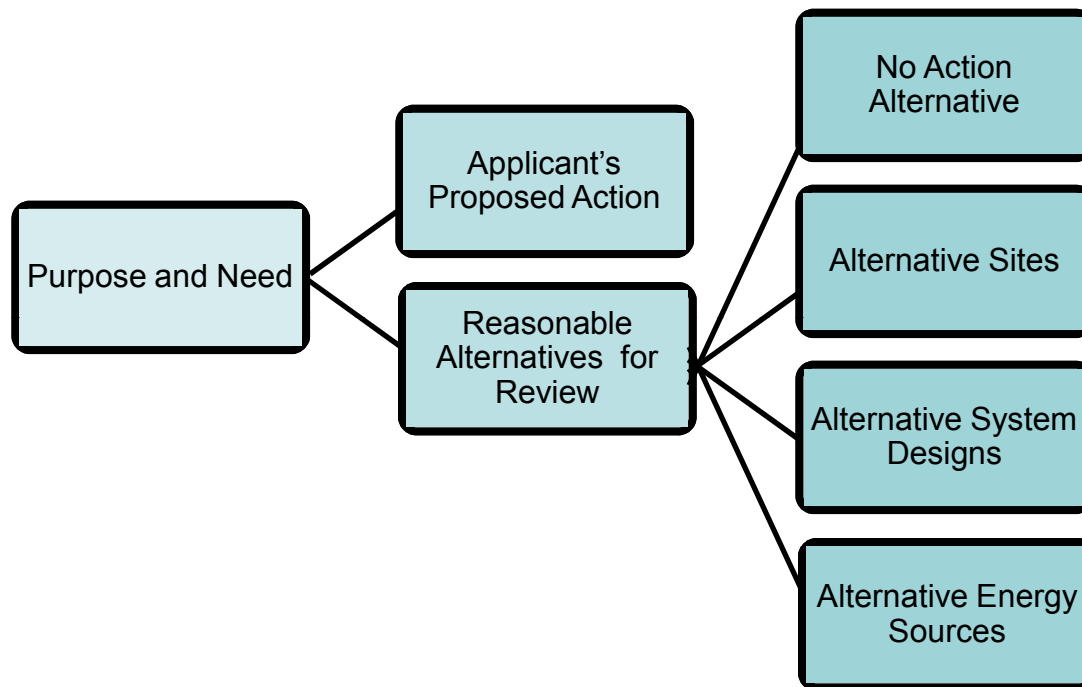
NEPA

Purpose and Need (P&N)

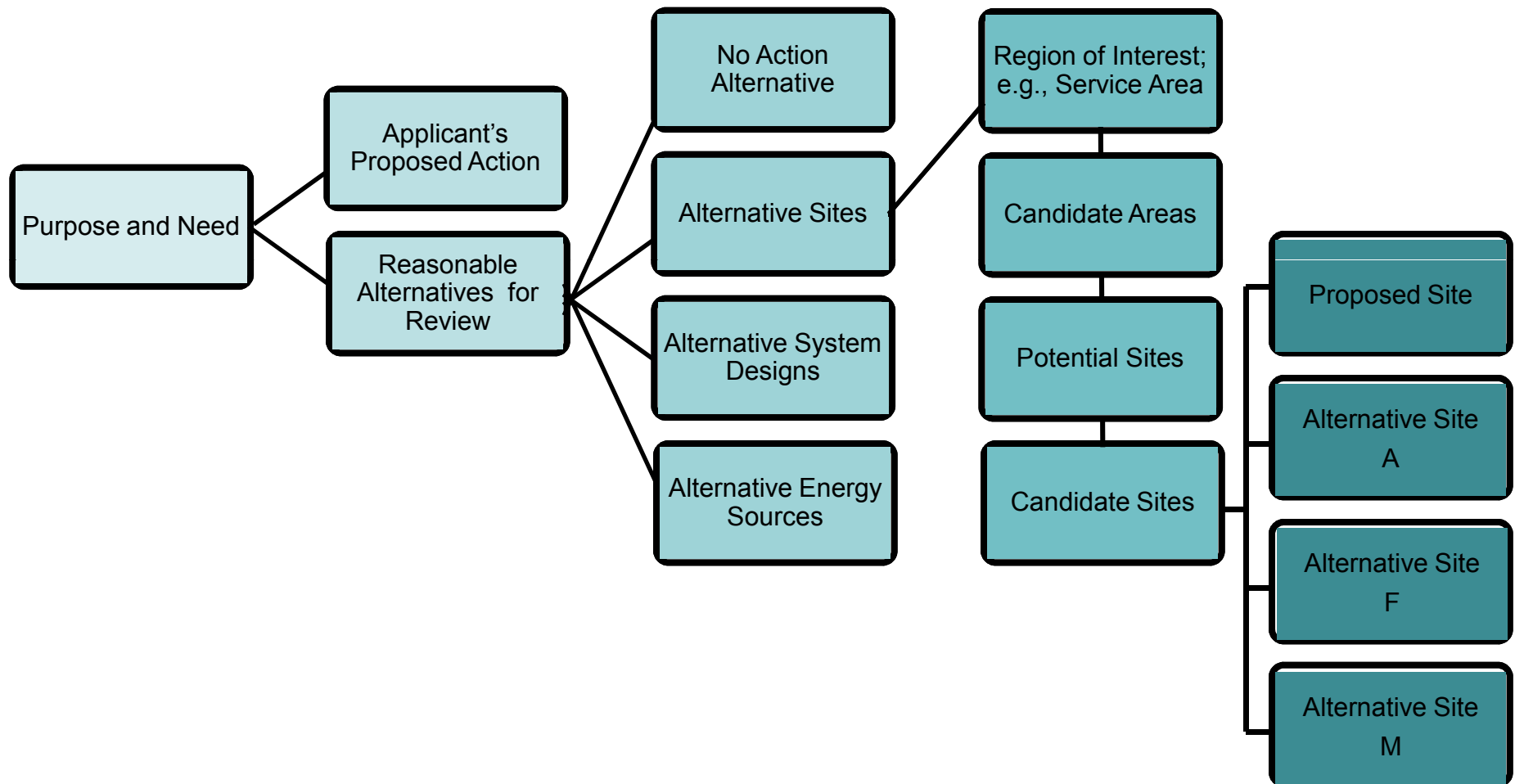
- P&N in the EIS addresses objectives of each participating agency and regulatory authority.
- For the current large reactors, P&N for COLs generally included baseload power for a particular region in a specific time frame, small modular reactors may have different P&Ns.
- Reasonable alternatives are derived from the P&N; the P&N cannot be so severely constrained to eliminate all alternatives that would otherwise be considered reasonable.

Alternatives:

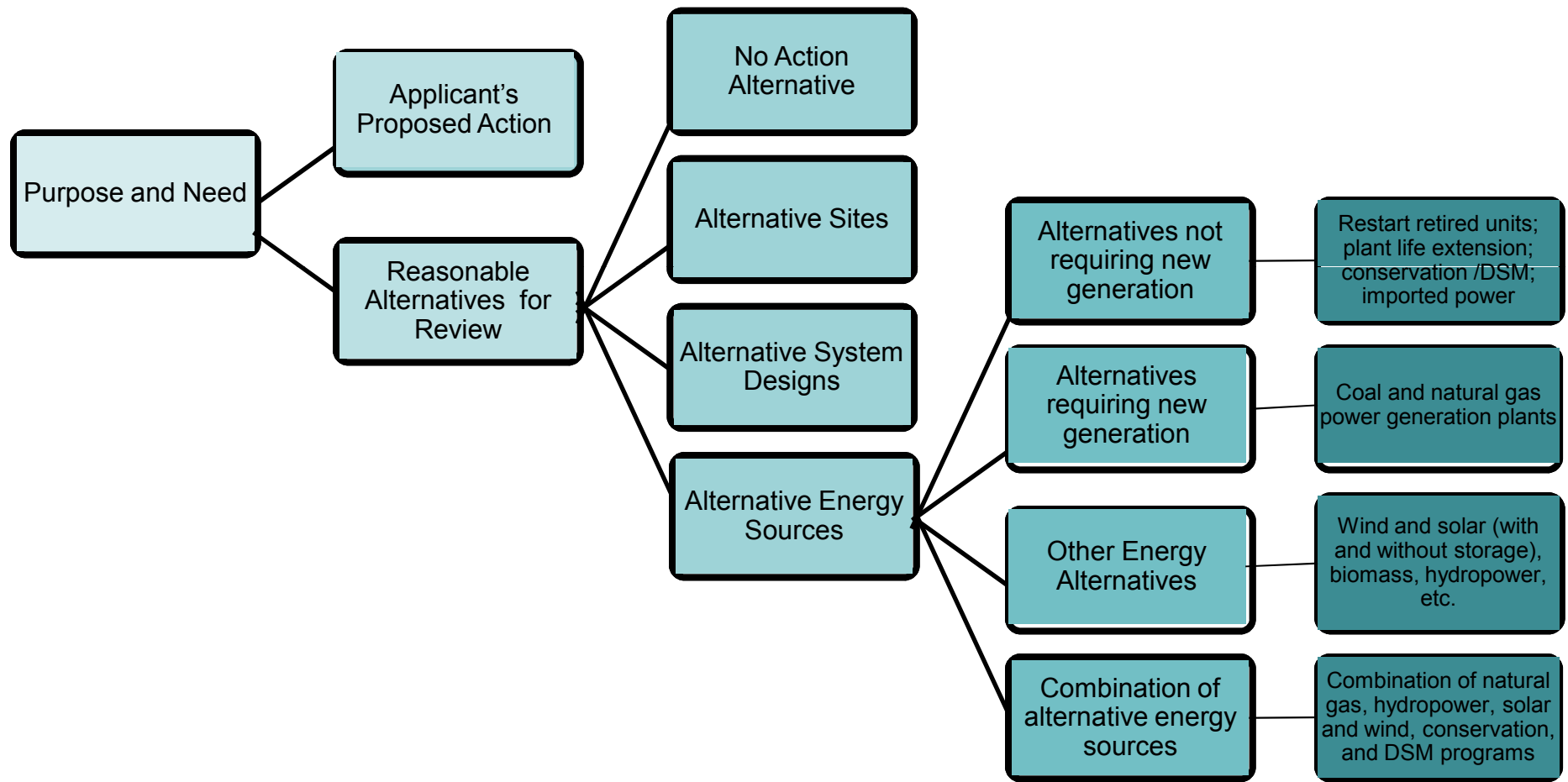
Purpose and Need Statement Shape the Suite of Reasonable Alternatives



Alternative Sites:



Alternative Energy Sources:



Interagency Coordination Issues:

- Atomic Energy Act
- Federal Water Pollution Control Act - Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Rivers and Harbors Act
- Endangered Species Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- National Environmental Policy Act

- Agencies NRC engages: EPA, ACE, DOI, Tribal Nations, States, et al.



Questions on the NRC's Licensing Process?