

>> R. Hardt: Tiering was talked about in the old handbook but we tried to add some additional explanation to make it a little more relevant to the way we structure our NEPA documents. Tiering allows us to narrow the range of alternatives, allow us to concentrate on issues they weren't already addressed in a broader NEPA document. It is particularly useful when we're doing cumulative impact analysis. Typically what we're doing is we're programming programmatic EISs or RMP EISs that address the overall effects of a program and then we will prepare often individual EAs that are tiered to that broader EIS. When we prepare an EA that's tiered to a broader EIS you are going to be able to reach a FONSI for that specific individual action if the significant effects of the particular action have been analyzed in a broader EIS. It's only if there are significant impacts that haven't been addressed that you would need to do an EIS for that individual action. And in that case what you want to do is you want to focus your EA analysis on determining if there are new circumstances or new information that would change the effects that are analyzed in that EIS.

>> C. Humphrey: And the handbook, section 5.2.2 there was lots of good examples of situations where tiering is appropriate.