



# **COPS** Fact Sheet

[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## *Fact Sheet on Environmental Assessment for the Methamphetamine Initiative*

Clandestine drug laboratories are used in the illicit production of illegal drugs, most often methamphetamine. The Methamphetamine Initiative of the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) provides federal grant funding to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to assist in the eradication of clandestine laboratories, including the seizure of such laboratories and the removal, storage, and disposal of hazardous chemical materials, equipment, and other waste products retrieved from laboratory sites.

Such federally-funded activities may, under some circumstances, fall under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq. NEPA establishes a national goal of protecting the environment and applies certain requirements to federal assistance that may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. It is the policy of the COPS Office to minimize environmental harm that may occur due to federally-funded activities.

As a result, the COPS Office, in accordance with NEPA, completed its most recent Environmental Assessment in 2003 for the Methamphetamine Initiative. The 2003 Environmental Assessment covers the use of federal funds for the following grant-funded activities: training of law enforcement officers in methamphetamine-related issues; salaries and benefits of law enforcement personnel; purchase of approved equipment and supplies; interdiction of and removal of laboratories, finished products, precursor chemicals, and hazardous materials resulting from the production of methamphetamine; proper transportation, storage, and disposal of finished products, precursor chemicals, and hazardous materials retrieved from the laboratories; and/or preventive efforts to

reduce the spread of the production and use of methamphetamine.

The Environmental Assessment evaluated the environmental impacts related to activities funded under the Methamphetamine Initiative and identified a variety of possible risks to the human environment as a result of the illicit production of methamphetamine. The Environmental Assessment determined that any potential risks to the human environment that may result from activities funded under the Methamphetamine Initiative were mitigated by the risks associated with the illicit production of methamphetamine and the producers' improper storage and disposal of associated hazardous chemicals that would result in the absence of this initiative. This mitigation is based upon grant recipients certifying, as a condition of the grant, that they will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local health and safety laws and regulations that apply to the seizure and closure of clandestine laboratories. Such federal laws and regulations include, but are not limited to: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); the EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Occupational Safety and Health Act; and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations governing the labeling and transportation of hazardous chemical materials and waste, 49 C.F.R. Part 100 et seq. and Parts 350-399. Based upon grant recipients' adherence to the grant condition, the COPS Office determined that the Methamphetamine Initiative would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the human environment and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this grant program.

The 2003 Environmental Assessment is current and accurate because the underlying science on which it was based has not changed. Therefore, the COPS Office adopted the 2003 Environmental Assessment and FONSI for the 2004 Methamphetamine Initiative. The COPS Office concludes that the 2004 Methamphetamine Initiative will not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the environment.

Accordingly, all recipients of federal funding for methamphetamine-related activities must abide by the 2003 Environmental Assessment and certify that they have received and reviewed a copy of the Environmental Assessment. To obtain a copy of the certifying requirement and the Environmental Assessment, visit COPS Online at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov).