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- Mars sample return mission planned for 2003-05
  - Send two spacecraft to Mars
  - Gather samples from two locations
  - Bring them back to earth
  - Do science
Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Why? It's the law (Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)

How? According to NASA's NEPA Regulations

Get launch (and landing) approval
- Requires serious consideration of potential environmental impacts.
- Done through an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Questions: How many EISs? Two.
- When do they need to be done? ASAP.
- What is the scope of the EISs? Landing site, transportation route, facility, etc. etc.
NASA assumed we would also need to get approval for the mission under Presidential Directive/National Security Memorandum 25:

"Scientific or Technological Experiments with Possible Large-Scale Adverse Environmental Effects and Launch of Nuclear Systems Into Space"
• Northern or Southern hemisphere?
  • Engineers and scientists like Southern.
• Utah or the ocean?
  • Some engineers and scientists like ocean.
• Why then was Utah baselined?
  • Laws: international, federal, state and local
Must have a sample receiving facility

Criteria (in addition to the technical)

- Name – why it was not the MSRF
- Who wants it? NASA, CDC, NIH, university?
- How do you pick a location? Lottery or AO?
- Should distance matter? Distance from where?
- Existing facility or build from scratch?
Lessons learned from success stories (and from failures)
- Two Canadian BSLs – one opened, one didn’t- why?

Research
- What focus groups told us, and why it was a surprise

Stakeholders
- Who are they and how do we engage them?
Know the NEPA regulations and have a plan
- Have a better understanding of PD/NSC-25, and of potentially applicable laws and regulations
- Have some idea of the public’s early attitudes
- Know what has succeeded recently
- Have a GREAT team ready to go again!