

Alternative Site Analysis

In terms of overall site selection, due to the requirement that the bridge connects the NEC on each side of the Susquehanna River, the alternatives analysis was restricted to an area adjacent to the current bridge. The Project Team developed a rigorous alternatives development and screening process for the Proposed Project.

The Project Team used a two-step screening process to evaluate up to 25 alternatives. The first step entailed a “fatal flaw screening” and the second step entailed a “detailed screening.” Throughout the screening process, the Project Team considered input provided through public outreach efforts, coordination with local officials, Section 106 consulting party meetings, Interagency Review Meetings, and other stakeholder meetings.

The second step of the screening process involved a more detailed evaluation of each of the 10 remaining alternatives. The detailed screening considered each alternative’s impacts to environmental resources – human and natural – as well as each alternative’s ability to meet the project’s operational and engineering goals. Concurrent to conceptual engineering, the Project Team inventoried environmental resources in the study area, and factored that information into the detailed screening.