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Environmental Planning Strategies, Inc.: Consultative Workshops

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Course information from the website:

“a. Powerful Planning Using NEPA and the Facilitated Planning Approach

This interactive workshop, individually tailored for the Federal/state agency requesting training, focuses on conducting effective and practical NEPA planning processes and impact analyses using the proven NEPA Facilitated Planning Approach, ensuring complete and adequate planning strategies and environmental impact analyses. The emphasis on practical planning processes and strategies, based on powerful and readily implementable planning approaches, includes CEQ regulations and guidance, the agency NEPA procedures, court decisions and precedents, and effective planning tools and processes. This workshop can be tailored to beginner and advanced NEPA practitioners, reviewers, and managers for the specific agency, and can be effectively used to improve interdisciplinary working relationships within the agency and with cooperating and commenting agencies. The workshop uses a combination of lecture, facilitated discussion, and “real life” case studies, tailored to each individual audience, to ensure that participants learn NEPA and effective methods of environmental planning and document preparation that can be used directly in their work. 3-5 days

b. Effective NEPA Document Review under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act for the Environmental Protection Agency

This interactive workshop, tailored specifically for the Environmental Protection Agency and its client Federal and state agencies, focuses on conducting effective reviews of agency NEPA documents for adequacy of analysis and severity of environmental impacts, then developing commenting strategies pertinent to environmental and political issues, policies, and precedent. The emphasis on practical review processes for analysis of NEPA document content and analyses includes CEQ and EPA guidance, court decisions and precedents, and effective review tools and processes, including a proven Document Review Packet. This workshop can be tailored to beginner and advanced NEPA reviewers and practitioners, and can be effectively used to improve working relationships between EPA reviewers and Federal and state agency NEPA practitioners and managers. The workshop uses a combination of lecture, facilitated discussion, and “real life” case studies, tailored to each individual audience to ensure that participants learn NEPA and effective methods of document review and commenting that can be used directly in their work. 3-4 days

c. Conducting Effective NEPA Document Reviews for NEPA Practitioners and Managers

This interactive workshop, individually tailored for the Federal/state agency requesting training, focuses on conducting effective reviews of agency NEPA documents for adequacy of analysis and severity of environmental impacts for improving the quality of agency NEPA documents and providing comments to other agencies. The emphasis on practical review processes for analysis of NEPA document content and analyses includes CEQ guidance, court decisions and precedents, and effective review tools and processes, including a proven Document Review Packet. This workshop can be tailored to beginner and advanced NEPA reviewers and practitioners, and can be effectively used to improve working relationships between agency reviewers and Federal and state agency NEPA practitioners and managers. The workshop uses a combination of lecture, facilitated discussion, and “real life” case studies, tailored to each individual audience to ensure that participants learn NEPA and effective methods of document review and commenting that can be used directly in their work. 3-4 days

d. Conducting Quality Cumulative Impact Analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

This interactive workshop, individually tailored for the Federal/state agency requesting training, focuses on conducting effective and practical NEPA cumulative impact analyses, including selecting the proper scope of analysis and decisions, developing the appropriate baseline, incorporating correct past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and conducting complete and sufficient cumulative impact analyses. The emphasis on practical planning and impact processes and strategies, based on powerful and readily implementable planning approaches, includes CEQ regulations and cumulative impact guidance, Environmental Protection Agency cumulative impact guidance, court decisions and precedents, and effective impact analysis tools and processes. This workshop is tailored to advanced NEPA practitioners, reviewers, and managers, and can be effectively used to improve interdisciplinary working relationships within the agency and with cooperating and commenting agencies. Participants actively discuss cumulative impact analysis cases, implementing the process for conducting cumulative impacts systematically, within the framework of NEPA, the CEQ regulations, CEQ and EPA guidance, and legal precedent. A variety of cumulative impact analyses, including quality analyses, prepared by other agencies are reviewed and local cases analyzed. 2-3 days

e. The National Environmental Policy Act: A Dialogue of Understanding for Quality Planning

This highly consultative and tailored workshop is intended for agency managers and advanced NEPA practitioners in several agencies to work together in a safe and facilitated environment to create a common language and understanding of the legal and practical application of NEPA and the CEQ implementing regulations; to better understand the policies, processes, and organization of each agency to foster better working relationships; to identify and affirmatively address areas of conflict, and cooperatively develop practical and effective means for issue resolution acceptable to all participating agencies; and to create interpersonal and interagency trust, affirmative patterns of communication, and positive mutually beneficial long-term relationships. Length tailored to need

f. The National Environmental Policy Act: Powerful Planning Focusing on Purpose and Need

This highly consultative workshop, individually tailored for the Federal/state agency requesting training, is intended for agency managers and advanced NEPA practitioners to learn effective

methods for determining and articulating in writing the specific and focused need for action and objectives (purpose and need) and the scope of decisions to be made. This workshop focuses on interdisciplinary processes for identifying the connected and similar actions included within the scope of a particular decision to be made, and conducting the analysis necessary to determine the true *underlying* problem that needs to be addressed. Participants learn how to identify the possible metrics for evaluating effectiveness (objectives) and select the most appropriate for developing the array of reasonable alternatives and conducting effectiveness monitoring after project implementation. Using real case studies, participants learn how to make the discretionary administrative decisions necessary for identifying and selecting the scope of the need(s) for action, objectives, and scope of decisions to be made from the array of possible scopes, with well-reasoned rationale. Participants actively discuss and evaluate actual NEPA documents appropriate for their agency and learn to implement the process for initiating their planning process clearly with clear analysis and documentation of their need for action, objectives, and scope of decisions to be made, within the framework of NEPA, the CEQ regulations, CEQ and EPA guidance, and legal precedent. 3 days

g. Developing and Implementing Effective NEPA Planning Strategies

This highly consultative and tailored workshop uses the proven NEPA Facilitated Planning Approach to work the interdisciplinary planning team through a specific NEPA planning effort, simultaneously training the participants in developing effective NEPA planning and implementation strategies. The workshop uses the CEQ regulations and guidance, agency NEPA procedures, legal cases, and the proven Facilitated Planning Approach to develop the purpose and need, scope of decisions to be made, issues using cause-and-effect relationships, a reasonable array of alternatives and specific mitigation measures, and strategies for integrating other environmental laws and conducting impact analyses, including any necessary cumulative impact analyses. The interdisciplinary team, with the consultant, begins preparation of the NEPA document content and a public involvement strategy. The consultant can also be available for long-term support of the NEPA planning effort. Workshop length tailored to need.”